LEARNING / F1
Toward kinder, gentler and safer schools

WORLD / A27
In US, online 'sextortion' of teens on the rise

ACROSS / A17
Bishop takes up cudgels for torture victims

BUSINESS / B4
Delay in P40-B capital infusion dismays BSP

NEWS / A11
De Lima: Mancao still in witness protection program

Japan's 100-year-olds a vanishing breed

TOKYO—Japan has long boasted of having a population with many of the world's oldest people—lamentheard, many here say, of a society with a superior diet and a correspondingly low rate of obesity.

JAPAN'S A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, August 16, 2010 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 249 P18

Hundreds kiss to mark 65th year of war's end

NEW YORK—Hundreds of couples donned sailor hats and nurse's caps and smooched in Times Square on Saturday to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The couples were reenacting the famous Life magazine photograph of a nurse being passionately kissed by a sailor at the end of the war. An 8-meter

HUNDREDS A21

Gov't to sell 2 TV stations in 2 years

IN THIS WET CORNER As an assistant prepares to release him down a raging river, world boxing champ and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao makes a pitch for local tourism and braces for a mild, white-water adventure at Mesa La Union, Malvern, on Saturday. AQUILES Z. RIVERA / INQUIRER MINDANAO

But IBC-13, RPN-9 need overhaul first

By Cathy Yamsuan

MALACAÑANG wants sequestered television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13 sold within two years as part of the changes the Aquino administration has promised, the head of the Presidential Communications Operations Group said yesterday.

Herminio Coloma said the two networks must be overhauled first to ensure that they would be in top condition before being privatized.

Inevitably, the overhaul will include the reorganization of the boards of directors of the two TV stations, he said.

RPN-9 and IBC-13 were among the private companies of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) sequestered in 1986 when Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

"In the case of the two private stations under government supervision, the clear direction is toward privatization. It has been 24 years since they were sequestered. It's not agreeable that they have remained in that situation this long," Coloma said.

He added, however, that the new administration's plan to privatize the stations would involve a long process.

"Privatization would not be immediate because there are certain realities we need to face. The stations are not in prime condition. Their financial situation is not so vibrant as it was before sequestration. There was a time when these stations ruled the airwaves, with many awards and their programs earned praises. We cannot say the same about them right now," Coloma said.

Past efforts at selling RPN-9 and IBC-13 have come to naught.

Coloma said he would not blame anyone for what happened, "but anyone can see they are not in the best possible condition."

Asked whether a reorganization of the stations' boards would be included in the overhaul, Coloma said: "There would be changes, like a new leadership. A new board of trustees and new directors."

GOVT'S A20

ARROYO: Not a good beginning

Joker tells Noy's legal team: Don't act rashly

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. JOKER Arroyo yesterday criticized the legal team of President Aquino for racking up four cases before the Supreme Court in just 46 days in power.

"This is not a good beginning," Arroyo said.

He noted that the President's lawyers and Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares should have not been "too overeager" in pushing their agenda that only placed additional burden on the Supreme Court.

The four cases pending in the high tribunal involve the first three executive orders issued by Mr. Aquino and his plan to impose a tax on road toll.

★ Executive Order No. 1, which created the Philippine Truth Commission to probe excesses of the Arroyo administration, has been stalled, with the

JOKER A22

Fiba kicks off 3-on-3 basketball

GENEVA—Basketball's governing body launched its new 3-on-3 game into the wider sports world on Sunday at the Youth Olympics in Singapore.

Taking beach volleyball's success as a model, the International Federation Fiba (Fédération Internationale de Basketball) hopes the smaller, quick-shooting version of hoops will grow up fast to join the Summer

FIBA A23

Bishop urged to live among Luisita farmers

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Leaders of farm workers supporting land distribution at Hacienda Luisita yesterday answered Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense of being clueless about the situation in the sugar estate owned by the family of President Aquino.

"If it concerns Bishop Cinense, we don't really expect any hope from him. About his statement that's in favor of the Cojuangcos, he does not know what he is talking about," said Lito Bala, president of the United Luisita Workers' Union (Ulwu).

Cinense on Thursday told the Catholic Church-owned Radio Veritas that it was best to respect the decision of workers who elected to retain shares of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) un-

BISHOP A23

Pagcor: Expansion before sale

By Marlen Ranoa

PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) plans to expand its casino operations to make the state-run gaming firm more attractive should President Aquino decide to sell it to private investors.

Jay Santiago, Pagcor spokesperson, said raising the gaming agency's annual revenues would be a "gargantuan task" for the current Pagcor management due to the proliferation of smaller gaming facilities in various parts of the country.

"Considering that there is now competition in the market with the operations of private casinos, there's going to be a big challenge on how we could improve revenues and remittances from our casinos," Santiago said in a recent interview.

"If we could improve our per-

PAGCOR A22

Is weather chaos linked to warming?

THE FLOODS battered New England, then Nashville, then Arkansas, then Oklahoma—and were followed by a deluge in Pakistan that has upended the lives of 20 million people.

The summer's heat waves baked the eastern United States, parts of Africa and eastern Asia, and above all Russia, which lost millions of acres of wheat and thousands of lives in a drought worse than any other in the historical record.

Seemingly disconnected, these far-flung disasters are reviving the question of whether global warming is causing more weather extremes.

The collective answer of the scientific community can be boiled down to a single word: Probably.

A FIREMAN battles a wildfire outside Moscow amid the most severe drought in Russia's history. REUTERS

"The climate is changing," said Jay Lawrimore, chief of climate analysis at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. "Extreme events are occurring with greater frequency, and in many cases with greater intensity."

Lawrimore described extreme heat, in particular, as "consistent with our understanding of how the climate responds to increasing greenhouse gases."

Theory suggests that a world warming up because of those gases will feature heavier rainstorms in summer, bigger snowstorms in winter, more intense droughts in at least some places and more record-breaking heat waves.

Scientists and government reports say the statistical evidence shows that much of these phenomena are starting to happen.

But the averages do not necessarily make it easier to link specific weather events, like a given flood or hurricane or heat wave, to climate change.

WEATHER A6

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

5 16 27 29 29 21

SUERTRES

0 7 9 8 6 8

8 4 1

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

4 7 20 25 37 49

P16,000,000.00

Japan rice given to gov't, not Pagcor

By Kristine L. Alave

THE RICE dole intended for typhoon victims in 2006 allegedly diverted to bolster the candidacies in the May elections of two sons of former Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino was donated by the Japanese Aruze Corp. to the Philippine government.

According to documents from the Bureau of Customs and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the 208 metric tons of rice from Aruze Corp. entered the country as a personal donation to Genuino.

Of that 200 MT of rice, 49 MT was given to Pagcor while the rest went to the DSWD, according to officials of Pagcor and DSWD.

In an Aug. 3 article in the Inquirer, Genuino had claimed that the 50,000 bags of rice, each weighing 50 kilograms, were "donated to me personally" by Aruze Corp. through the help of his "taniquen" who, he said, was a senior official of the Japanese company.

Genuino had said in Filipino: "It was me who donated the rice to Pagcor. Why would they accuse me of illegally distributing rice which I actually owned?"

However, the documents showed the rice entered the country as a "local donation" to the Philippine government by the victims of Typhoon "Frank" which slammed Metro Manila and parts of southern and central Luzon in late June 2008.

The July 8, 2008 import permit then was granted to the DSWD until "This shipment is donated by Aruze Corp. of Japan to the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development intended for relief and rehabilitation of calamity-affected areas."

The rice arrived in Manila in late July 2008. Import documents described it as "Dhan Long Grain White Rice measuring to 200 MT. The goods were packed in 18,000 50-kg bags. The total tax for the shipment, which came to 15 containers, was P9.1 million.

Donation, carnal say

To prove that the shipment was a donation, the Philippine Consul General to Japan, Sulpicio Confiado, attested that there was a deed of donation signed between Aruze Corp. chair Kazuo Okada and then DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral.

The authentication certificate indicated that the deed of donation was signed on July 8.

Cabral, when reached by phone yesterday, confirmed that the DSWD was the consignee of the shipment from Aruze Corp.

"Of the 18,000 bags, 5,000 were sent to DSWD and 3,000 were left in Pagcor for distribution," Cabral said. "From what I gathered, it was Pagcor that solicited that donation," she added.

Asked if she knew if Pagcor held up the seal of the deed, Cabral said, "That I don't know anymore."

Pagcor conduct

In a phone interview yesterday, Genuino declined to comment further on the issue, saying that the rice shipment was already "donated to the Philippine government."

He also insisted that Pagcor only acted as a "conduit" for the rice donation.

"I don't want to make any statement on this anymore. As I have said before, the Pagcor was just the conduit," Genuino said.

What went before

In the same Aug. 3 article in the Inquirer, Joy Santiago, Pagcor spokesperson, had said that the rice, worth over P1.4 million, was part of the 300-MT shipment from Thailand which a Japanese gaming firm had donated to Pagcor.

Instead of distributing the staple as its intended beneficiaries, close to 1,800 50-kg sacks of the "first-class" rice were repacked in smaller 10-kg bags by a private contractor in Bulan, Laguna, Santiago had said.

The bags recovered from the Laguna warehouse were printed with the names and faces of Genuino's sons—Anthony as "Tito," and Kristo as "Vito."

Anthony later won the mayoral race in Los Baños, Laguna.

His brother Erwin, however, lost his mayoral bid to Biñan City in Jan-Jan Binay, son of then mayor and now Vice President Jejomar Binay. With reports from Martin Bianco

Aquino inaugural food still not paid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pay up and don't spoil President Aquino's entry moment.

A caterer has quite unlucky support of Mr. Aquino to pay him P1.25 million in fulfillment of a P1.25-million contract for the delivery of 30,000 food packs to self-seekers during the June 30 inaugural dinner at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Joseph Tojares, owner of JT Catering Services, protested proof that he had fulfilled the terms of his contract to Alejandro Quiros Israel, president of the Nueva Ecijan for President Movement (Surigaoan chapter).

The contract required Tojares to provide 30,000 sets of fried chicken, 30,000 boxed buns and 30,000 350-cc. bottles of water.

Israel had paid only P1 million to Inc. deciding to hold the balance until Tojares showed proof of delivery and purchases.

Tojares presented a statement of account showing the snack packs included fried chicken, belying Israel's claim that he had served only bread and bottled water during the inauguration.

The statement also showed that Aims Refrigeration and Cold Storage Inc. had billed Inc. storage fees for boxes of chicken leg quarters between June 24 and 27 and cooked chicken between June 27 and 29.

Dated July 1, the statement further showed handling charges for 6,492 kilograms of chicken, trucking fees for two container vans and 320 boxes containing 15 kg of chicken leg quarter each.

Another statement dated Tojares's company had brought out 320 boxes or 5,005 kg of chicken leg quarters on June 27 or a day after he and Israel signed the contract worth P2.25 million.

The same attachment showed that the cooked chicken taken out on June 29 totaled 3,427 kg.

Said Tojares: "I provided all the 30,000 pieces of fried chicken. For good will, I also served 10,000 extra bread buns."

He also said he delivered the food and water in full but was not able to make Israel sign the delivery form because she was at the Manila Hotel.

Contacted for comment yesterday, Israel said she did not have a copy of the statement of account.

Told of the figures provided by Tojares, she said they seemed enough.

"The deal [volume is] 15,000 to 20,000 kg of chicken to [produce] 30,000 pieces [of chicken]," she said.

Israel on the figures in the account statement, she said: "Now I understand why some people received only bread and water because the chicken [was not enough to make] 30,000 packs of food."

But Israel said that she would pay the P1 million balance that Tojares had demanded. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Balikbayan was sis of lawyer, not Neri's

SEOUL, a 'mail-order bride' from the Philippines who married a South Korean farmer was the sister of a lawyer who represented Neri in the Senate inquiry into the $329-million national broadband network deal with China's ZTE Corp., a Philippine newspaper reported Monday.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal, a former election commissioner, was quoted by the Philippine Daily Inquirer as saying that Filipina Lee, who died in a car accident in South Korea on Aug. 14, was his younger sister.

The story was apparently unknown to Neri's supporters in the Philippines until Macalintal revealed it in an interview with the Inquirer.

Macalintal said that Lee was in the country when Neri was testifying at the Senate inquiry in September last year

Reduce Your Water Consumption up to 50%

NEOPERL

WATER SAVING AERATOR

Water Save

Aerated Water

Shaved Spray

GEXTERTON

Gexterton Corporation

Senate to cap GOCC, GFI salaries

By Sid Cabuenas

THE SENATE is planning to impose a "hard and reasonable cap" on the salaries and bonuses of directors and officers of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) to check abuses, if any.

Sen. Edgardo J. Angara said the compensation cap should set the maximum amount GOCC and GFI officials should get after they received "runaway compensation" through exemptions from the salary standardization law (SSL), the government pay scale where the President has the biggest takehome pay.

Angara said there was a need to review the pay scale of GOCCs and GFIs because some of them had compensation packages much larger than in the private sector.

"We have to strike a balance on the need of the government to retain its people through competitive (but) not compromising pay scale," he said.

The Senate will conduct an investigation of the bonuses and the GOCCs' refusal to declare dividends to the government initiated at 247 billion nationally) tomorrow.

President Aquino had revealed in his State of the Nation Address that officers and employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) were getting as much as 80 months' worth of pay and bonuses.

"They must compare with the private sector in terms of pay but it does not mean spending more than what the private corporations pay," Angara said.

He explained that the SSL exemptions were issued several years ago after GOCCs and GFIs suffered a massive massive drawn by low government pay.

He cited as an example the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig which has two dividends of its employees in first years due to the SSL. This led to the government exempting from the SSL GFIs such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System.

Angara said the exemptions in the GOCCs were introduced in Congress where their charters were amended by lawmakers.

He admitted that continuing cap with a reasonable compensation package was the tricky part, but he was hopeful that the GOCCs and GFIs personnel would be reasonable and understand the need for the sake of public service.

MCLE FOR LAWYERS

32nd MCLE – August 23, 26, 27 & 28, 2010

33rd MCLE – September 10, 23, 24 & 25, 2010

34th MCLE – October 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2010

Sponsored by: Chan Robles Law Net, Inc.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.chanrobleslaw.com

Sapat ba ang dosage ng food supplement mo?

OsteoArthritis

Pamamaga at panananakit ng kasu-kasuan

OsteoGard

Food Supplement

IWAS OA!

IWAS OsteoArthritis!

LyndeStar

THE LEADING RESCUE BOATS MANUFACTURER OF EUROPE and USA NOW IN THE PHILIPPINES

Distributed by:

"MILITARY VERSION AVAILABLE"

A(H1N1) over but be wary

PALAWAN: health authorities yesterday warned Filipinos to remain vigilant against outbreaks of swine flu although the A(H1N1) pandemic had been declared over.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona expressed that the post-pandemic period also means "sustained community level transmission and localized outbreaks of the virus in the coming years."

Ona said in a statement that the Department of Health (DOH) would continue its direction and surveillance activities.

"I encourage our health workers and all our citizens who belong to the vulnerable groups to avail themselves of the vaccines that we have already been providing for free to our local health facilities and DOH-managed hospitals since early this year," he said.

These groups include pregnant women, infants and children, elderly, and those with chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, among others.

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the pandemic virus was in its post-pandemic period. Jocelyn R. Uy

STOREWIDE SALE

UP TO 50% OFF

on selected items

somewhere in Aug 26

FREE ENTRANCE!!!

PRINT PHILIPPINES 2010

"Innovation: The Key to Profit and Success"

September 15-18, 2010, World Trade Center

Roxas Boulevard cor. Gil Puyat Ave.

Pasay City, Metro Manila

• Over 2,700 sq. m exhibition space • Total of 131 booths

• International group participation

• Free product presentations and seminars

47th Year

LIMITED FAMILY PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

citi

CATS

Now and Forever

LEA SALONGA

Music by

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

PERFORMANCES UNTIL AUGUST 22 ONLY

TANGHALANG NICANOR ABELARDO, CCP

Ticket

891.9999

www.ticketworks.com.ph

GROUPS 50+ GET 10% DISCOUNT

STUNNING HONG KONG SALE SEASON

DON'T MISS THE GREAT DEALS AND STUNNING FESTIVALS THAT ONLY HONG KONG CAN OFFER.
TRAVEL IN UTMOST COMFORT AS MOST OF OUR FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG ARE SERVED BY OUR WIDEBODY A330/B777/B747 AIRCRAFT.
MANILA-HONG KONG 7 TIMES DAILY. BOOK NOW AND ENJOY THE BARGAINS!

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL Reservations Manila (02) 855-8888
Cebu (032) 340-5181, Davao (082) 221-1613, or your travel agent
Or, log on to www.philippineairlines.com

Philippine Airlines
WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS NO. 1
www.philippineairlines.com

Look son, no hands!
The new generation B-Class with Handsfree Parking.
As low as PhP 23,139 monthly.

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Global City 815 7777 0920 9046474 Mercedes-Benz Greenhills 723 5888 0920 9046472 www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

Winners of
Miss Bikini Philippines 2010
International Pageant

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

PLUS!
Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

CORE POWER + BIOMETRICS
I Lost 51 lbs.!
Runner-Up in the Great Body Contest,
Cedric Vladimir Dy

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

"All our full programmes are guaranteed!"
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!!!

- NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

Diamond Facial
FACIAL WITH DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL to give you a flawless skin.

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Is weather chaos linked to warming? Probably

From page A1

Most climate scientists are reluctant to go that far, noting that weather runs that new land by remarkable variability long before human began heating itself fitfully and releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

No solid proof yet

"If you ask me as a person, do I think the Russian heat wave has to do with climate change, the answer is yes," said Gavin Schmidt, a climate researcher with NASA in New York. "If you ask me in a scientist whether I have proved it, the answer is no—at least not yet."

Ki Simmis, that kind of scientific caution might once have been embraced. Russia has long played a reluctant, and sometimes obstructionist, role in global negotiations over limiting climate change, perhaps in part because it so perceived economic benefits from the warming of its vast Siberian hinterland.

Shift in thinking

But the relationship between global warming and weather disasters is changing, and Russia is changing with it. Last month, President Dmitry Medvedev told the Russian Security Council this month: "Unfortunately, what is happening now is out control regions is evidence of this global climate change, because we have never in our history faced such weather conditions in the past."

The warmest measurements show that the earth has warmed by about 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since the Industrial Revolution began in earnest, the point at which humans started releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide, a heat-trapping greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

From January through July this year, average temperatures were the warmest on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported on Friday.

Beginning of a trend

The warming has moved in fits and starts, and the cumulative increases may seem small on the planet, representing an immense amount of added heat, and to settle the beginning of a trend that most experts believe will worsen substantially.

If the earth's natural, random variations in the weather should cause about the same number of record-breaking high temperatures and record-breaking low temperatures over a given period.

But climatologists have long theorized that in a warming world, the added heat would cause more record highs and fewer record lows.

The statistics suggest that is exactly what is happening.

In the United States these days, about two record highs are being set for every record low, telltale evidence that amid all the random variation of weather, the trend is toward a warmer climate.

Skeptics of climate change dispute such statistical arguments, pointing out that a decade or so is not long enough about long-range patterns in draw definitive links between global warming and weather extremes.

The skeptics cite events like the heat and drought of the 1930s as evidence that extreme weather is nothing new. Those were indeed dire heat waves, contributing to the Dust Bowl, which dislocated millions of Americans and changed the population structure of the United States.

Weather extremes

But most researchers remind us climate analysis, while acknowledging that weather data in parts of the world are not as good as they would like, offer evidence to show that weather extremes are getting worse.

A UN governmental report published in 2008 noted that "in recent decades, most of North America has been experiencing more unusually hot days and nights, fewer unusually cold days and nights, and fewer frost days. Severe downpours have become more frequent and in areas."

The statistics suggest that the eastern part of the United States may be getting wetter as the arid west dries out further. Plants that depend on the runoff from spring snow melt appear particularly vulnerable to climate change, because higher temperatures are making the snow melt faster, leaving the ground parched by mid-summer. That can worsen any drought that develops.

"Global warming, ironically, can actually increase the amount of snow you get," said Kevin Trenberth, head of climate analysis at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. "But it also means the snow season is shorter."

In general, the research suggests that global warming will increase climate extremes across much of the planet in the United States, wet areas will get wetter, the scientists say, while dry areas get drier.

Uneven patterns

But the patterns are not uniform; changes in wind and ocean circulation could create unexpected effects, with some areas even cooling down in a warmer world.

And long-established weather patterns, like the periodic variations in the Pacific Ocean known as El Niño, will still contribute to unusual events, like heavy rains and cool temperatures in normally arid parts of California.

Scientists say they expect stronger storms in winter and summer, largely because of the physical principle that warmer air can hold more water vapor.

Typically, a storm of the sort that inundated parts of Pakistan in July dumping as much as 10 inches of rain over two days, draws moisture from an area much larger than the storm itself. With temperatures rising and more water vapor in the air, such storms can pull in more moisture and thus rain or snow more heavily than storms of old.

Definitive analyses

It will be a year or two before climate scientists publish definitive analyses of the Russian heat wave and the Pakistani floods, which might shed light on the role of climate change, if any.

Some researchers suspect that the heat wave and floods were caused or worsened by an unusual kink in the jet stream, the high-altitude flow of air that helps determine weather patterns. Though that itself might be linked to climate change.

Certain recent weather events were so extreme that a few scientists are shedding their traditional reluctance to ascribe specific disasters to global warming.

After the 2003 heat wave that killed an estimated 50,000 people in Europe, the worst such catastrophe for that region in the historical record, scientists published detailed analyses suggesting that it would not have been as severe in a climate unaltered by greenhouse gases.

And Trenberth has published work suggesting that Hurricane Katrina dumped more rain on the "left" (east) side of the storm, one intensified by global warming.

"It's not the right question to ask if this storm or that storm is due to global warming, as it is natural variability," Trenberth said. "Naturalness' factors always are elements of both." New York Times News Service

RESIDENTS struggling in the flood dodge an Army truck carrying relief goods in Pakistan's Muzaffargarh district in Punjab. Floods caused by days of rain killed more than 1,600 people in Pakistan.

A VICTIM is carried out from the wreck of a building devastated by a landslide in Zhouqu county of the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on Sunday. Triggered by heavy rains, the landslide was the country's deadliest in decades.

O. Francisco; 64

OGIL FRANCISCO, activist, organizer, builder, mentor, mover, legislator, poet and dancer, died yesterday of multiple organ failure. He was 64.

In a letter written by friends appealing for financial help two years ago for his dialysis, Ogie was described as "a critical determinant in the building of alliances between the included and the excluded in our society, a pivotal hand in coalition building, and a determined reformer and bridge-builder between civil society and the state.

"His service can be traced to his Student Catholic Action days, his role as justice and peace coordinator of Sentro ng/ the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, his stewardship of various foundations and NGOs, and his close and just/quitary leadership within the National Anti-Poverty Commission," the letter said.

Ogie is survived by wife Edna; children Ruth Margaret and Jun-, Oscar Edmund, and Carlos Raphael/Carol Camille, grandchildren Miguel, Ben, Mateo and Sofitia, sister Lilia and brothers Cesar and Alberto.

His cremation he in the Buddhist Room at Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment is on Aug. 19.

citibank savings

Loan approval in 2 hours*.

Speed. Powered by Citi.

Whether it's for home improvement, that dream vacation, fixing up the car or whatever else you may need, nobody responds faster than Citi. We now offer 2-hour Personal Loan approval* in 25 Citibank Savings branches nationwide.

If you are an existing Credit Cardholder of any bank, you can enjoy this 2-hour Personal Loan approval plus a preferential interest rate**. Get as low as 1.25% monthly add-on rate for Gold Cardholders, or 1.47% for Silver Cardholders for a 24 month tenor if you apply now till September 30, 2010.

For more details or for the list of Citibank Savings Express Loan Approval branches:
Call (02) 995 1888 (Metro Manila)
1800 10 995 1888 (From other provinces through PLDT)
Visit www.citibank.com.ph

Counterinsurgency plan blamed for killings extended

By Donn Pazcoguin

OPLAN Bantay Laya, the military counterinsurgency plan that has been blamed for the spate of extrajudicial killings in the country, has been extended another six months, or until the end of the year, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo David Jr.

David said a new campaign would be in place on Jan. 1, 2011, against the communist-rebel group New People's Army (NPA) which has been waging a guerrilla war since 1969.

He said the new counterinsurgency plan would reflect the new thrust of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Aquino administration, which is to enforce respect for human rights among its troops.

"Oplan Bantay Laya expired last June so we are intending if for six months. We will come up with a new campaign plan by January 2011. The focus of the new campaign plan will be to uphold the human rights," David told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday night.

Oplan Bantay Laya, which expired when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were ended on June 30, has been blamed by leftist groups for increasing extrajudicial killings and the abduction of hundreds of activists by supposed military and paramilitary agents.

Human rights abuses

A United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Philip Alston, had concluded that Oplan Bantay Laya had given rise to human rights abuses by the security forces because it did not distinguish between combatants and noncombatants.

The AFP leadership has consistently denied the military was behind the summary killings and disappearances of suspected activists, mainly in the countryside.

During the "exit briefs" of the AFP Soldiers' Handbook on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law last Thursday in Camp Aguinaldo, David admitted that military should offer more than just a sweeping denial of the allegations thrown at them.

"Unless my words, respect for human rights and observances of the rule of law will be on top of the AFP's list of priorities," he vowed.

Negative public perception

He acknowledged the "negative public perception" generated by the "perceived poor human rights record ascribed to the AFP and the public (has) military abuses."

"It has left seeds of doubt. And when doubt is present among people, our ability to move forward toward the same goal of national security and nation-building is impaired...To win this war, we must get rid of doubt and work for public trust to grow in its place," he said in his speech.

To keep the upper hand in the 40-year-long battle against the NPA, David stressed that government troops must realize that it must keep the public trust.

"This is the first and most urgent win (for the AFP) listed with. The enemy is not the one with the largest body count against the enemy. It is the one who has the most number of people whose hearts and minds were won. It is in the one who has earned through their deeds the trust and support of the people," he said.

He added: "Respect for human rights is not (evidence) or secondary to mission accomplishment, it is a prerequisite to mission accomplishment."

In a command conference in Dil, Camarines Sur, on Saturday, David said the military was open to peace talks with the communist guerrillas and the Muslim secessionists but would continue with its military offensives to protect the people and the duly constituted government.

End of armed struggle

"The policy of the President is to talk with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the New People's Army (NPA) to put an end to the decades-long armed struggle," he told officers and men of the Army's 9th Infantry Division in Camp Elias Angeles.

David, however, said that if the peace talks with the insurgents failed, the AFP was prepared for any contingency. "We are very ready to launch any offensive once the talks fail." *With a report from Mar S. Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Ester-C
Vitamin C with Calcium
Provides a source of pH-neutral vitamin C (non-acidic)
Imported from U.S.A.
Ester-C
Available at leading drugstores
SYNTHETIC GRANITE
SOLID SURFACE COUNTERTOP
700/sq ft
TWO Interiors Corp.
T 726 9494 / F 570 0079 / M 0917 626 6282
email: info@twointeriors.com
9B L. Araullo Street, B. Lahing-Hagonoy, San Juan City

Sangguniang Kabataan no longer relevant, must go – Malacañang

By Cathy Yamsuan

AS IT IS NO longer responsive to the needs of the Filipino youth, the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) or youth council must go.

Malacañang's communications chief Ronnie Ricketts Ochoa made the observation following concerns the SK's abolition could contribute to apathy among the youth. (A) member) who stand for election must be 15 to 21 years old.

The Kabataang Barangay, the SK's previous incarnation, was created by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos purportedly to identify and train youth leaders in the community.

Despite its many boon complaints, however, the SK has evolved into a youth network subject to abuse and manipulation by unscrupulous barangay or village officials who use it for personal and political gain.

"The SK has been there long enough and (its) time... gone by, whether it is still effective is a reality that needs to be faced. Just because it is a tradition or a mandate that people have gotten used to doesn't mean that is the only panacea we have to address," said Ochoa in a radio interview yesterday.

"President Aquino enjoys a large mandate and he has the power and need to examine for reforms. In my opinion, the SK is not the only method that can respond to the youth's needs. If we examine the new government's platform, priority is given to education," he said.

"So education has the future of the youth. We need to widen our perspective. If (we) want to improve the welfare of the youth do not tie (it) to the SK alone," Ochoa said.

As it is, Malacañang is planning to abolish the SK. A draft bill ending the SK's abolition is being prepared by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Presidential spokesperson Ed Lacierda had said in a news conference last week the government was preparing only for barangay elections in October, along with the election of a sole youth representative who will sit in the barangay council.

He said there would no longer be a full slate of youth councilors to make up the SK in a barangay.

YOUNG PEOPLE register for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections at the Commission on Elections office at the Quezon City Hall yesterday (but they may not get to vote at all if Malacañang had its way. INQUIRER

WHITE HORSE CERAMIC
"My partner for relaxing at home has always been White Horse"
WHITE HORSE, inspiring beautiful homes
ALABANG
BACLARAN
DIPOLOG
MANDAUE
BUENDIA
CEBU HOME and BUILDING CENTER
CEBU I.T. PARK
expo
WHITE HORSE CERAMIC (632) 822 3381

BI men suspended, axed

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) has dismissed 20 employees and suspended 23 others in a purge of bogs and corrupt personnel.

Investors of those dismissed were confidential agents who had complaints filed against them involving extortion, said bureau officer in charge Ronaldo Ledesma.

Of those suspended, 16 were immigration officers assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Ledesma, in a statement, said he signed last week the orders terminating the services of the erring employees following his designation as officer in charge of the agency by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

"The dismissal orders were long overdue. I had to implement them, but we're accused of being vehement of wrongdoing in our bureau," he said.

Ledesma said most of the charges involved extortion, grave misconduct, gross insubordination, neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service.

Lawyer Isidro Quesada Jr., BI administrative chief, said that of the 20 dismissed workers, 14 were permanent employees while 23 were confidential agents assigned to various bureau offices.

Quesada said the immigration officers at Naia were placed under preventive suspension without pay pending investigation of their alleged involvement in irregularities at the international airport.

According to Ledesma, the Department of Justice, the BI's mother agency, confirmed the dismissal of three of the persons under employees. Those considering their dismissal or suspension may file a petition with the NCU or the Civil Service Commission, he said. Jeremy Grilo

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Monday, August 16, 2010
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Stephen of Hungary
1st Reading: Ezk 24:15-23
Gospel: Mt 19:16-22
A young man approached Jesus and asked, "Master, what good must I do to possess eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, "You shall not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."
The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments; what is still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."
On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.
Commentary:
When asked all these commandments, "the young man replied: 'What else do I need to do?'
There are three ways to live life:
I can refuse to do what is expected of me. (The life I refuse is nothing.)
I can do only what is expected of me. (The life I do only what is expected of me—mediocre.)
By choosing the third way, I become fuller every day.
Christian Communication Foundation, Inc., 2 Marcos St. 10 Valley Golf, Antipolo City, 2010, the exclusive 2010 Easton Gap for the Holy Bible, Philippine Edition. Copyright notice and licensing for the Holy Bible, Philippine Edition, can be found at www.cbcp.org.ph/bible/permissions.html. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

Light
RESIDENCES
Witness a dragon breathe life into Light Residences.
The Light Residences Showroom Blessing, Grand Raid plus real Dragon Dancers from Chinatown! Wednesday, August 15, 5 p.m.
SM Megamall, 5th Floor, Building A
For inquiries, call 658-0300 or 0917-5005151
Find us on: Facebook
www.facebook.com/lightresidences
GET A TASTE OF A LUXURIOUS AND CONVENIENT HOME BESIDE EDSA BONI-MRT STATION.
Visit our showroom on the 5th floor, SM Megamall Building A.
Enjoy firsthand a glimpse of your bright and sunny future with Light Residences. We offer so much more than a great location. Our airy and comfortable units have been planned with your needs in mind. Fine furnishings, quality fittings and smart, modern design create an ideal setting for an enjoyable urban life.
Like all SM Residences, Light Residences will be a fully-secured community in a premium location in Mandaluyong. Plus, you can enjoy an SM mini-mall that will offer a wide array of restaurants, shops and other establishments.
Property Management services are also available for a variety of needs like unit leasing, handyman and housekeeping services. Enjoy these privileges for reasonable rates.
Recreational Area • Landscaped Gardens with Water Features • Jogging Path
Swimming Pools with Shower Rooms • Function Rooms • Provision for Commercial Areas
Located in a High, flood-free area • Wi-Fi in common areas
All units are fully-furnished.
www.smresidences.com
RESIDENCES
SMDC
The good guys!

OFWs need not fast on Ramadan–DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS based in the Middle East and other Islamic countries are "not obliged or fine during the holy month of Ramadan unless they themselves are Muslim," according to Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson.

"Nonetheless, they are encouraged to conduct themselves in a manner that would be respectful of their host Muslim employers' beliefs and traditions," he said.

The Riyadh, Saudi Arabia-based, militant Filipino workers' group Migrante Middle East (MME), however, disputed the DFA official's pronouncements.

John Leonard Monterona, MME regional coordinator, said: "Many OFWs are required by their Muslim employers to fast just like them during the entire Ramadan (Aug. 11 to Sept. 9). An unidentified number of Filipino domestic helpers are given only a single meal, if not made to fast (but they) are required to work more than eight hours."

Tarlac Rep. Jose "Joey" de Venecia said he "required to do household and other chores starting early in the morning until late at night," he said citing numerous complaints MMEban received from OFWs.

Monterona added that "It's no surprise that during Ramadan, the number of runaway OFWs goes up. They run away because they can no longer bear the inhumane treatment they're getting from their employers. Stating last year's Ramadan, Migrante chapters here in the Middle East received an average of eight cases per day."

Weiss, "some personnel of our embassies and consulates look the other way. They are more concerned about preserving the Philippines' diplomatic relations with OPW host countries," he said.

Yesterday, MME urged Viet Vice-dent Jejomar Binay, the incoming migrant workers' czar, to look into OFW problems during Ramadan.

In a related development, OFW victims of alleged labor malpractices in Ilocarin City had sought the help of MME in bringing their case to the DFA office of migrant workers' affairs.

The OFWs, reportedly brought to Taiwan on tourist visas, were "working in a beauty parlor where they (were) not only underpaid but (were) also required to work more than 12 hours a day. They (were) also not allowed to go on sick leave."

The OFWs' passports (were) being held by their employers, a Jordanian national and his Kuwaiti wife, Monterona said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Embassy in Cairo has warned OFWs against Manila-based job firms overseeing maids for deployment to Sudan.

In Beijing, the Philippine embassy there has warned prospective OFWs against recruiters for blue-collar jobs in China.

A YOUNG Muslim reads the Koran at a mosque in Taguig City as part of the observance of the holy month of Ramadan. AUDREY MORALES

ABS-CBN union scores dismissal of more workers

UNION leaders have denounced the dismissal on Friday of 37 more employees of the media giant ABS-CBN, bringing to 92 the number of workers laid off since June.

ABS-CBN Internal Job Bidder (ZBN) Workers Union-Nagkaisa chapter (Cebu) president Rodel Cadag said the workers were "illegally dismissed" because they refused to accept ABS-CBN's offer for downsizing, per program said, a move that would deprive them of the rights and benefits that a regular employee.

In a statement, he accused the network of undertaking an explosive "scorched-earth and contractualization policy."

The network management had said in June that the UBE was a reactive manpower provider and not an entity under ABS-CBN and that a process of regularizing some of the workers was underway.

The UBE union has questioned the regularization program, saying barring UBE workers from applying for permanent status would take them out of the union.

Cadag said that long-term employees who refused to abandon the union were dismissed.

He also said that the network was "acting like a bully, dismissing workers just like that because it was confident of Malacañang's backing."

He stated that two heads of the Presidential Communications Group were because complaints of the television network and President Aquino's sister, Kris, was one of the top stars of the network.

The union has filed a petition for certification election so it can be officially recognized as a bargaining body.

"We hope President Aquino notices and intervenes for the workers' sake. The management's union-busting (through massive layoffs) should be stopped," he said.

Last June, Rong Dionisio, head of ABS-CBN's corporate communications, said 188 more workers "already gave(n) the (network) a list of accredited technical or creative manpower who offer their services to the company".

"(A) decision to regularize some of them (is) being made. The regularization process was carried out in accordance with the law," Dionisio said. It's a move been protested as ABS-CBN called.

On the opposed refusal to recognize the union, Dionisio said "the call to have the ABS-CBN UBE workers' union recognized has been dismissed by the appropriate ... government quasi-judicial body." Jocelyn R. Uy

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!!! $89
Magellan World Travel, Inc.

PILGRIMAGE TOURS
SANS TRAVEL & TOURS

TRAVEL PLAZA

AIRFARES
TOUR PACKAGES
DJK TOURS & TRAVEL CO.

SKYNET TRAVEL

AUTUMN TOUR GROUPS 2010
HOLYLAND TOUR w/ JORDAN & EGYPT at $2,198.00 per Person
Departures:
09 September, 20 September
29 September & 13 October
plus MARIAN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE with LOURDES & FATIMA
travelplan, inc.

Richworld

CHEAP
AIRLINE TICKETS & TOURS
MANILA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS

www.chinapanorama.com
Shanghai WORLD EXPO
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

www.RAKSOTRAVEL.com
RAKSO TRAVEL
(02) 912-9667
$50 DISCOUNT OCTOBER & DECEMBER DEPARTURE
FALL IN LOVE WITH KOREA
COLOURS OF KOREA
TOUCH OF NAPOLI
DAZZLING KOREA
KOREA WINTER SKI
MYSTICAL TAIWAN
HISTORICAL SIEM REAP - SAIGON
SCENIC JAPAN
JAPAN ESCAPADE
AUSTRALIA 2-CITIES
AUSTRALIA 4-CITIES
AFFORDABLE TURKEY
INCREDIBLE INDIA

Mancao still in witness program–De Lima

By Marlon Ramos

FORMER SENIOR Supt. Glicerio Mancao II, a vital witness in the Jaime Cobbles double murder case who implicated Sen. Ronaldo Dayan in the crime, is still in the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

De Lima in the same time expressed shock over a statement made earlier by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Dante Gierran that the DOJ had suspended Mancao from the WPP.

"There was no announcement or formal motion made of Mancao's coverage under the WPP. I have not made any," De Lima told the reporters over the phone yesterday.

"I might ask (NBI Director Wigberto) Tanseco (and) Colonel (Jonathan) Luntok for making an inaccurate disclosure of very sensitive information as Mancao's status (in the WPP)," De Lima added.

Under the law, De Lima said, only the justice secretary was authorized to terminate certain benefits and privileges enjoyed by witnesses accepted into the WPP.

She admitted, however, that some DOJ prosecutors recommended a review of Mancao's compliance with the WPP.

In an interview with another daily, Lunsda had said the NBI had to take Mancao into custody after the DOJ rescinded his WPP privileges for breach of some protocols, but he declined to specify Mancao's supposed violations.

Mancao has accused Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief, of ordering the 2008 killing of prominent businessman Jaime Cobbles.

Lacson, who accused the then Arroyo administration of lobbying against him, was Duterte's former boss in the Davao Police Department's Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

People's Choice

GOLD 2009
GOLD 2008
PLATINUM
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999

PLATINUM
PILOT

CITYLAND
We connect, we deliver.
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 2
Phase III and E
Barangay Mangas, Tagaytay City
Own a 240 sqm. lot for as low as
₱10,380/mo.
813-2222 687-3333 567-3333 342-1212 cityland.net

LOTA
High Efficiency Automotive Tools
Manila Construction Supply Inc.

Proteksyon sa weather ang hanap?
100% Waterproof
FlexSeal™ ang Dapat!
1st in Elastomeric Paints
Available at all Wilcon Builders Depot & Supply, The DIY Shops & all Leading Hardware Stores or call FlexSeal Hotline at (02) 252-8531

Hate Brownouts? Need Light? Want POWER???
KIPOR™ Generator
has got all your needs covered.
From DARK to LIGHT!
Promo Php14,995.00!

idec
Auto Tuner Multi Mounted Aircon
1hp-₱16,500
INVERTER SERIES!
FREE INSTALLATION

STOP TIMEKEEPING FRAUD
PROTECTION SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED
5342506-08, 5429876, 0920-9614808

OKI

ARMSTRONG
AIR COMPRESSOR
BUILT STRONG TO LAST LONG!

Fini
INDUSTRIAL SERIES
Low RPM Belt Driven
Victor Hardware

BIG SALE!
COPYTRADE

océ COPIER SALE!

INDUSTRIAL HI-PRESSURE CLEANERS
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.

BASTA DENGUE
I-Vectron MO!
Vectron
Effectively kills MOSQUITOES, Flies and Cockroaches
✔ Do-it-yourself protection against Dengue
✔ Water-based, Odorless and Environment- friendly
✔ Non-irritating
✔ Non-staining
✔ Safe for Pets
✔ Approved by BCH.O. Division of Control of Tropical Diseases in 1987
Easy-Spray Application!
"Protection that lasts Up to 6 Months!"
INTENSIFYING the FIGHT against DENGUE!
ACE PUREGOLD

V-BOARD MASTER
PILOT
No Skip.
Stable writing
Replaceable ink
Available in Black, Red & Blue

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St. Binondo, Manila
P.O. BOX 1681 Tel. Nos. 242-2878 to 79 Fax: 242-2877
PILOT CORPORATION

INQUIRER

OPINION

Dear Justice

THEY LOOK innocent enough: Two letters addressed to the members of the Supreme Court, and bearing the same date, Jan. 19, 2009. Surely, citizens can write letters to Supreme Court justices too? Except that, in this instance, the letters came from the losing party in a landmark case. Had the losing party failed to have the decision reversed, the letter-writing would still have been unethical. But the letters—one from

EDITORIAL

counsel Emilio Mendiola, the other from the mayors of the 16 controversial municipalities appealing an earlier order nullifying their towns' city-level status—form part of a series of circumstances that led to the Court to do the barely imaginable: reverse itself in December 2008, despite having ruled with finality in November 2008. In other words, the letters form part of a chain of events that eventually led to the victory of the losing party.

Some may still ask: Hell, what if the losing party wrote the Supreme Court? Where is the harm in that?

The harm is to the damage sustained by the legal process. An official of the League of Cities of the Philippines, which brought the suit against the 16 municipalities, issued a statement which, despite its evident mercenarity, puts the legal issue in perspective. Said Calauan City Mayor Rodino Salvador Londres, vice chair of the LCP: "This is completely against the law—to write the court nothing is favorable decision. Under the law, all parties resolved in the case must be furnished with copies of pleadings and motions. In each case, we, as well as our legal counsels, were not provided with those secret documents."

Reached for comment, Mendiola did not issue an outright denial. Instead, he impugned the motives of LCP chair Oscar Rodriguez, mayor of San Fernando, Pampanga, in these terms: LCP raised the issue only because Rodriguez wanted people to know he was the new league president.

But now that knowledge of these letters has become public, and considering that the case is (again) up for reconsideration by the Supreme Court, it is in fact incumbent on both the letter-writers and the highest court of the land to set the record straight.

We do not wish to describe the reasoning that went into the December 2009 reversal-after-effective-finality as conspiratorial. (To be sure, we have assailed the outcome of that decision, in this same space, as doubly upsetting, of the true intent of the pertinent laws and of the Court's own traditions.) But if the justices did receive the letters in January 2009, we join other citizens in hoping that either singly or collectively, perhaps through the court administrator at the time, the justices found a way to remind the letter-writers that justice is fundamentally about fair play.

We cannot say the same for the letter-writers themselves. If the statements from Rodriguez and Londres are taken at face value, and considering that Mendiola did not deny the existence of the letters, then it is clear to us that, to phrase it in idiomatic English, our legal brain, they tried to pull a fast one over us—that is, over their opponents and, by implication, over the public too.

According to the LCP, which received a copy of the letters only unofficially, and by circumstance, the letter from Mendiola appended to the Court "to allow the participation of the judges [that is, the newly appointed Supreme Court justices] who were not physically present during the deliberation of the Nos. 10, 2000 order." The letter from the 16 mayors pleaded for a reconsideration of the decision nullifying their towns' city-hood status.

Even to a non-lawyer, the legal advantage of both letters is clear. Allowing the participation of more justices (in this instance, a total of five) can dramatically change the complexion of a case. And a plea for reconsideration crushed as a letter in a clever maneuver to circumvent the Court's own limit on two motions for reconsiderations.

The principal issue remains clear: The 16 municipalities did not meet the requirements set forth under the law; they should not be classified as cities. But the secondary issue is of serious consequence too: Did the 16 municipalities win their disputed victory through means unfair and even foul?

Publisher **SANDY PRIETO**
Editor in Chief **LETICIA MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **BENJAMIN G. BLANCO**
Assistant Editor for Readership **RONALDO R. SANTIAGUIN**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARCEO**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIO JR.** • Chief, Page One Operations **NELIA B. FRANCIA**
Chief, News Desk **RAMON S. ALMADRONES**
Assistant Chief, News Desk **ANTONIO L. BERNARDO JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN F. SERRANO III**
Editor in Consultant **ALEXANDER ZOSIMO**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE S. SUBARAN III**
Art & Design Director **ERNEST A. VILLANUEVA**

Board of Directors **ANDRES R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDER PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **ERNESTO R. ARANETA**
Vice President for Advertising **FILMER R. OLANDO**
Vice President for Info Tech and Systems **GARY G. LIMOT**
Vice President for Finance **JOSE M. VALMORES**
Advertising Director **MANUEL ANDREW R. CHANCOCO**
AVP for Marketing **JENNIFER S. ARANETA**
Corporate Affairs Manager **EDWARD R. KALAW JR.**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no copies of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Criminal and other liabilities of GOCCs

THIS is a continuation of last Friday's column on the criminal, civil and administrative liabilities of the boards of directors (they shouldn't be called boards because they cannot be classified) of government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) who gave themselves excessive bonuses and allowances. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) which President Aquino singled out in his State of the Nation address, is used here as an example, but the same laws and legal liabilities apply to other GOCCs as well.

Besides being held liable for violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the MWSS directors may also be criminally liable for violating RA 6713—or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Section 6. Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees.—[All] [every] public official and employee shall observe the following as standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of official duties:

"(b) Professionalism.—Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill. They shall enter public service with amore devotion and dedication to duty. They shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of their roles as mere instruments or tools of expediency.

"(c) Justness and sincerity.—Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and underprivileged. They shall act on all cases promptly, justly and impartially and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. They shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their office to their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity except with respect to appointments of such relatives to positions considered strictly confidential or as members of their personal staff whose terms are coterminous with theirs.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"(h) Simple living.—Public officials and employees and their families shall lead modest lives appropriate to their positions and income. They shall not indulge in extravagant or conspicuous displays of wealth in any form."

The MWSS directors are also civilly liable for damages arising from the performance of official duties when there is a showing of bad faith.

Section 38(1) of the Government Auditing Code of the Philippines declares expenditures which are disallowed and found to be unlawful or irregular liabilities of the official or employee responsible for such expenditure:

"SECTION 103. General Liability for Unlawful Expenditures.—Expenditures of government funds or uses of government property in violation of law or regulations shall be a personal liability of the official or employee found to be directly responsible therefor."

As previously discussed, the authority of the MWSS directors to fix bonuses and other incentives is subject to the requirement that such amounts be "reasonable." Definitely, such expenditures would be void. Applying these requirements, it may be argued that the act of the MWSS board of having unreasonable bonuses renders its members personally liable for the amounts in excess of what is deemed "reasonable" and allowable by the COA.

The COA is empowered to disallow what amounts to regular, unnecessary, excessive or extravagant expenditures or use of funds or property. COA circular defines "extravagant" expenditures as those which appear to be imprudent and which are not responsive to the demands of government service.

Unnecessary expenditures are those not supportive of the implementation of the objectives and mission of the agency relative to the nature of its operations. This could also include bonuses if expenditure not justified by the demands of good government, and those the ability of which cannot be ascertained at a specific time. An expenditure that is not essential or that which can be dispensed with without loss or damage to property is considered unnecessary. The amount and ethical of the agency incurring the expenditure must be considered in determining whether or not the expenditure is necessary."

"The term 'extravagant expenditures' signifies those incurred without restraint, indiscretion and economy. Extravagant expenditures exceed the bounds of propriety. Those expenditures are immoderate, prodigal, lavish, luxurious, wasteful, grossly excessive and republicans."

Applying the foregoing, the exorbitant bonuses and allowances granted by the MWSS directors may be deemed as extravagant and unnecessary and disallowed by the COA. The directors may then be held personally liable for the amounts in the bonuses and incentives.

While the MWSS directors may have the authority to fix the amount of bonuses they receive, an abuse in the exercise of such authority gives rise to civil liability under the organized provisions on human relations in our Civil Code, or the constitutional injunction of abuse of rights under Article 19 of the Civil Code.

The MWSS directors may also be civilly liable under Section 31 of the Corporation Code which imposes the penalty on directors found guilty of bad faith in directing the affairs of the corporation.

While the MWSS is governed primarily by its charter, the Corporation Code nevertheless applies to GOCCs where their directors act in bad faith.

Likewise, erring directors may be liable administratively for misconduct under Section 46, Chapter 6, Subtitle A (Civil Service Commission), Title I, Book V of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987.

Don't forget, these also apply to other GOCCs.

Taxed

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know how much of what Edwin Lacierda said last Friday enflamed Filipinos's viscopsis. He defended the BIR's attempt to collect tax on road toll (tax on tax), "to the short term, we'd rather be unpopular because in the long term we know that the [value-added tax] that will be collected will be used for the social services that we have promised."

That is the philosophy of Adrenaline Arroyo for the problem coming their way. Which is crazy, to say, because the idea originated from her predecessors. "They turned into revenue measures those circulars and they refused to enforce [them]. Now that we are in the process of enforcing the law, we are the ones who appear as the villains."

Well, first off, the opposition to it came in the main from Ralph Recto, spiritual author of the E-VAT. Items of income was a staunch GMA ally before he became a staunch P-Noy ally, running for senator under the LP. And it is a staunch ally as well of the previous presidents, like most other politicians in this country, owing undying loyalty to them before their undying loyalty shot when a new leader took over. But for the sense, Recto has earned undying loyalty to P-Noy. How can you blame GMA for his machinations?

Second off, it was enough why should you want to tax road? A toll by its very definition is a tax. That is where the phrase "taking to toll" comes from, the price you pay for something, which in this case is taking to toll on vacation, on and rollers of produce alike. To tax a tax is double taxation, which is doubly taxing the taxpayer's patience.

That brings me to Drilon willing to sacrifice political capital for the sake of public service. Please. For this, I can only hope Lacierda had the President's authorization for saying it. Because it's nonsachastic, if not suicidal.

There's no problem with the President damaging popularity to push a course of action that's truly lofty or high-minded. There's no problem with the President exerting the elite brainsto in Mindanao despite sabre-rattling being the easiest way to win votes there, as Erap found out to his time. There's no problem with the President exploring a fiscally independent foreign policy, one that sets the US and China on equal footing with the country, notwithstanding that Filipinos tend to be more pro-American than Americans. There's no problem with the President moving away from crapo politics and embracing a more People Power-oriented one, relying less on unreliable allies in Congress and more on reliable ones in the Parliament of the Streets, which is something he has precedent.

But to taxe fiber-petition? Just to front a tax on tax?

What makes that batty from a larger perspective is that The P-Noy government should really be going for E-VAT as a last resort and not softest one.

The E-VAT is important. It is the hallmark move of regressive taxation. It is an admission of failure, its very existence says that if governments cannot use the rich, it might as well tax everyone. Its very existence says that if it cannot collect from the rich, because the rich can afford to hire lawyers or pay off BIR officials, it might as well collect from everyone without relief by making them pay more every time they buy rice or cigarettes or medicine. Its very existence says that if government cannot do what is right, it might as well do what is convenient.

If the BIR merely collected the right taxes from the tycoons, the big corporations, the slick landowners or estate developers, it will have more than the money it gets from E-VAT to fill the coffers of government. We know that because of the spectacular deals between rich and poor, where a tiny few hoard the country's wealth. We have one of the worst cases of wealth distribution—there's little of it—in the world.

Indeed, if government only recovered the loot stolen from Marcos' time (except, it would have a bigger mountain than Mt Halo, but that's another story).

We also know why the BIR is unable to do it in reputation, along with Customs and Immigration, as one of the most corrupt institutions of this country. It is not undermanned. It has the lowest rate of absences by officials, which even not to diligence but to the fact that a day's absence could cost one tens of thousands in income, unearned of course.

More than that, the process, big corporations, the slick landowners, estate public officials and pretty much anyone who has amassed a fortune in this country by fair means or foul make sure they will not have to pay the right share by resorting to alertness. That is where the campaign funds of presidential candidates come from, which is in part meant to be to save proud investments in tax evasion.

That's what makes P-Noy's government's move to resort to E-VAT, and for a horrendous reason at that, outrobed. P-Noy is the People's President. That doesn't just mean he is popular. That also means he became President not because he relied on the usual suspects to make him so but because he relied on the people—the volunteers who worked for free as much as the voters who voted for him—to make him so. He is by beholden to vested interests.

If so, then his path is as clear as day. If he wants to make a tough decision, if he wants to make a show of randomness, if he wants to explode a synapse that has been melted dry by the heat of the sun, he should go after the rich. After all he needs to do is get the millions pay their taxes. All he needs to do is run after the tax cheats. All he needs to do is get the people's dos. That tough decision doesn't just allow him to retain his public acceptance; it allows him to increase it tenfold. That tough decision does not make him look tough, it makes him look bad.

The tax on tax just makes him look like his abilities are being unduly taxed.

The Truth Commission

SOUNDING BOARD
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

SOME column last week concluded with what in effect were two questions: (1) Does the creation of the Truth Commission have a legal foundation? (2) Does anybody now have standing to challenge its validity?

First, on the issue of standing. Standing, of course, is an issue which the Supreme Court approaches with a certain degree of flexibility. On this understanding I would probably say that a legislator like Rep. Edcel Lagman would have standing to challenge an act that might encroach on the power of Congress.

A more crucial question, however, is whether indeed the creation of the commission is an encroachment on the power of the legislature. It would be if its creation has no legal basis at all. An executive order, after all, as the Administrative Code defines it, is an implementation of a constitutional or statutory provision.

Executive Order No. 1 (which I would prefer to call an administrative order) relies on the power of the President to reorganize the Office of the President. This power is recognized in Book III, Chapter 10, Section 31 of the 1987 Revised Administrative Code of the Philippines. This is echoed in Executive Order No. 5, which is enough to empower the President to create a commission.

Reorganization, according to jurisprudence, can involve the reduction of personnel, consolidation of offices or even abolition of positions by reason of lack of need or redundancy of functions. All of these, however, presuppose the existence of something to reorganize. But EO No. 1 admits that there is as yet nothing to reorganize. Hence, what is there to create.

EO No. 1 thereby involves the creation of a new position, to wit, "There is hereby created the PHILIPPINE TRUTH COMMISSION, hereinafter referred to as the COMMISSION, which shall primarily seek and find the truth on, and toward fact-finding, investigate reports of graft and corruption of such scale and magnitude that shook and offended the moral and political sensibilities of the people, committed by public officials and employees, their co-principals, accomplices and accessories from the private sector, if any, during the previous administration; and thereafter recommend the appropriate actions or steps were in its wisdom thereon to ensure that the full measure of justice shall be served without fear or favor."

It is an ambitious creation which is also described as "independent" even if it is not clear from whom or from what it would be independent. Certainly not from the President, because the President could unilaterally has control over all executive officers.

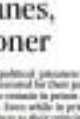
I and some of my colleagues, because one of our colleagues is in danger of being appointed to the Truth Commission, have been trying to look for ways of laying a legal foundation for its executive order. The clearest we could find were premises found in the Administrative Code regarding the elements that constitute the Office of the President. Proper: Book III, Title II, Chapter 6, Section 22 of the Code says "The President Special Assistants/Advisers System includes such special assistants or advisers as may be needed by the President." And Book III, Title II, Chapter 9, Section 26 says "Functions of Presidential Assistants/Advisers System.—The Special Assistants/Advisers System shall provide advisory or consultative services to the President in such fields and under such conditions as the President may determine."

In that all that the Truth Commission is—a body of "Special Assistants and Advisers" acting together as a toothless tiger? I remember a line in the Latin poet Horace which said "Mons laboravit et parturiens ridiculus mus" ("The mountains labored in labor and gave birth to a mouse.") But the Truth Commission, far from being a ridiculous mouse, is supposed to be the eyes and ears of the Aquino administration's fight against corruption.

Indeed, if one looks at the powers it is supposed to exercise, they are powers which a mere investigative commission, the Mighty Mouse, perhaps, but not a ridiculous mus. If the Truth Commission is supposed to perform a herculean task, the mouse, if I may mix mous, must be herculean!

Of course, the Truth Commission, according to EO No. 1, may "call upon any government instrumentality or prosecutorial agency such as the Department of Justice or any of the agencies under it, and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, for such assistance and cooperation as it may require in the discharge of its functions and duties." I suspect, indeed, that the staffing will be drawn from already existing investigative bodies. They will be the "heat" in the mix. Overall, e.g., that the Truth Commission included as members a chief prosecutor and the head of NBI.) In fact, too, those bodies could have been made the investigative body through "corpus juris." Unfortunately, their incorporation of the Department of Justice or of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission would not have made their investigations and exhibitions of evidence the Truth Commission is trying to make against the past administration. Rhetoric can have its value if it does not backfire.

Senator Trillanes, political prisoner



REVEILLE
Ramon J. Farolan

At UNIPRED by International Law, political prisoners are men and women who have been incarcerated for their political views and actions, and continue to remain in prison as a result of their refusal to renounce them. Because he prizes those views and women continues to adhere to their principles. The definition also covers anyone who is imprisoned and denied bail unfairly.

Some of the more famous political prisoners of our time include:

1. Nelson Mandela—he was jailed for 27 years for peacefully opposing the apartheid regime of South Africa. In May 1994, Mandela was elected South Africa's first black president.

2. Benigno Aquino Jr.—He was held in prison for seven years and seven months before being exiled to the United States. On his return in August 1983, he was assassinated at the Manila International Airport. His widow, Corazon Aquino, became president in 1986. In 2009, Benigno Aquino III followed in her footsteps as 15th President of the Republic.

3. Kim Dae Jung of South Korea....He was imprisoned for three years before being released to the United States. After his return he ran for office and in 1997 South Carolina was elected President of South Korea. Like Nelson Mandela, he is also a Nobel Peace Prize awardee.

Is Sen. Antonio Trillanes a political prisoner?

Let me quote from Senate Resolution No. 84. This resolution, which was signed by 20 senators a few days ago, expressed alarm "the former of the Senate for Sen. Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV to be Allowed to Attend and Participate in the Sessions and Other Official Functions of the Senate and Requesting the Judiciary Through the Regional Trial Court of Makati, Branch 148, to Hereby the Appearance Injustice by Allowing the Temporary Transfer of the Custody of Senator Trillanes to the Senate."

The fifth paragraph of the Resolution reads, "WHEREAS, the offenses with which Senator Trillanes is charged are political offenses. That he is presently classified as a political prisoner in accordance with International Law." In the course of earlier sessions, I referred to Trillanes as a "prisoner of conscience," a term similar to "political prisoner."

We should all be familiar with the provisions of Senate Resolution No. 84 (which I signed) and I hope that all senators latter the case of Trillanes who has now spent seven years in prison and in a few months will exceed the jail time of Nhoy Aquino. They are two senators of the Republic who have been imprisoned for their political beliefs.

Senator Resolution No. 84 points out several facts.

1. Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV was elected as a senator of the Republic during the May 2007 national and local elections by the votes of 11,110,677 voters, despite the fact that he was under detention pending the conduct of the charges against him by the Department of Justice and the Court of Makati, Branch 148, thus fulfilling the clear, unmistakable mandate of the electorate for him to serve as one of their elected representatives at the Senate.

2. In recognition of the mandate of the electorate, on July 25, 2007, the Senate of the Philippines passed Senate Resolution No. 2 "Expressing the Sense of the Senate that Senator Antonio Trillanes IV be Allowed to Participate in the Sessions and Other Functions of the Senate in accordance with the Rule of Law."

3. The Interparliamentary Union (IPU), an international organization founded in 1889, composed of 155 of the world's legislatures of which the Philippines is an active member, has formally adopted at least five official decisions urging the government of the Philippines to either release Senator Trillanes or to grant him provisional liberty so that Senator Trillanes" to attend Senate sessions and to grant him any such facilities as reasonable him to exercise his mandate to a meaningful way."

4. The Philippines is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which enshrines fair trial guarantees. Likewise, as a member of the United Nations' Human Rights Council, the Philippines is bound to uphold the highest standards of human rights.

5. Moreover, Senator Trillanes' trial and has been kept under detention for more than seven years now which pelled, in the light of International Jurisprudence, may well violate his fundamental rights under Articles IX and XIV of the ICCPR as pointed out by the Interparliamentary Union. (Reference: Interparliamentary Union Human Rights Council in its 105th Session in Geneva on Oct. 11, 2000.)

6. Even President Aquino, chief executive of the Republic, is a number of occasions, has expressed his personal belief that the continued incarceration of Senator Trillanes is an affront to international law and standards of human rights.

"Former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who was elected as the president of the Committee on Human Rights of the Interparliamentary Union in 2009, has pointed out that in a number of occasions, legally detained parliamentarians are allowed and permitted to attend parliamentary sessions to work, particularly in Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Turkey, and that in countries like Pakistan and Cameroon, a mere request of the National Assembly is sufficient to enable detained legislators to attend sessions of the legislature.

8. As can be seen from the foregoing, the continuing inability of Senator Trillanes to join the sessions and other official functions of the Senate not only amounts to a personal injustice to him but is likewise an injustice to the 11,109,677 Filipino citizens who voted for him in order to be his voice in an institution and a co-equal and coordinate branch of government.

9. The apparent injustice can be rectified and resolved by allowing the temporary transfer of the custody of Senator Trillanes from the Philippine Marine Corps Detention Center to the Senate, particularly to the Office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms (SAAS) at least while the Senate is in session with the express understanding that OSAA shall ensure the attendance of Senator Trillanes to trial, hearings and all proceedings of the cases against him unless otherwise excused by the courts.

The 36 senators who endorsed the resolution were: Senate C. Enrile II, Pia S. Cayetano, Franklin M. Drilon, Panfilo G. Lacson, Manuel A. Roxas II, Ralph G. Recto, Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio B. Honasan, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Francis N. Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Jose Miguel Zubiri. Some of them qualified their endorsement with the phrase, "with due respect to the rule of law."

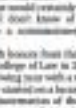
More than 11 million Filipinos voted for Senator Trillanes in 2007. In spite of his actions in July 2003, it is time for their voices to be heard.

Errata

Last Monday's "Reveille" column carried two errors introduced during the editing process. The idea that the last seven birthdays of Sen. Antonio Trillanes had been spent in prison was fine, and the word "in" in "and been given more freedom to attend Senate sessions" was inadvertently deleted. For errors apologies.

Exceptional

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO
Soraya Mustafa



IGAKTAB 15 March, a young lawyer who goes by the name of Edmund Saddat sent me a text message: "Good news, Auntie. I have just been appointed commissioner of the NCMF (National Commission on Muslim Filipinos)."

As it is among us Tausug, he calls me "auntie" although even if I were to wear a disguise I would never be mistaken for any of his kin. But I have always thought of him as a son, and through the years since he first impressed me during a workshop-seminar—as student in Ateneo de Zamboanga City—where he grew up, he has updated me on the highlights of his life path.

I was convinced: "You're the perfect person for the job," I replied.

The bill creating the agency to replace the OIC for the Muslims in the land never have signed into law a month before. I had even written a column about it expressing my apprehensions as well as the misgivings of those in Muslim civil society who had assumed one that the NCMF would go the way of other such agencies—a measure for the politically well-placed and another convenient means of dispensing pork barrel. I came into being by the time of Gloria Arroyo.

Bid Edd's appointment as a commissioner top screening the youth somehow allayed our fears.

Then in a subsequent text message early this month, he told me the bad news:

President Benigno Aquino III had issued Executive Order No. 2, voiding all "midnight" appointments of the outgoing Arroyo administration, as well as those made on or after March 11, the first day of the unauthorized ban on presidential appointments.

My appointment has been effectively nullified," his message read. He was appointed on March 8.

Unless the Supreme Court issues a temporary restraining order, the "nonsense of midnight appointments"—to borrow the head of the business's favorite Pinoy saying—EO 2/ EO 3/5—will continue or, according to Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Of course I was one of those who silently applauded this second directive of the President and I think it couldn't have come sooner. After all, these so-called midnight appointments were another hateful reminder of the utter meanness the administration of the recent hated previous occupant Malacañang. And as the earlier President Aquino got rid of them, the better for the country.

But then what about BAR? What about others as exceptional, some of whom could have been rewarded such appointments for the purpose of cementing loyalties for the elections, though the Arroyo knew fully well they each were handed by the Commission and that the succeeding president, with the probable exception of Manny Villar and Gibo Teodoro, would void them?

In the case of Edd that would certainly be most unfortunate. And Bro. Eli Soriano of Ang Dating Daan deserving to be a commissioner in the NCMF.

After graduating with honors from the Ateneo de Manila University College of Law in 2000 (he passed the bar the following year with a rating of 86.05), Edd worked in the Zamboanga City fiscal's office for a year before he decided to seek his own practice, running for councilor in his parents' hometown of Jolo, Sulu, in the elections of 2001, which he topped, allowing him to sit as board member in the Sulu provincial legislature.

During this time he taught at the Mindanao State University-Sulu, the Notre Dame of Jolo College and the subject Business Law and Philippine Constitutional Law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University where he finished his elementary and secondary schooling.

But when he ran for the board in the subsequent elections of 2004, he lost, as I suspected, which actually proved to be a blessing, because what he got instead was a Fulbright scholarship to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where he earned his master's degree in Public Administration. This was followed by another scholarship at the Free Institute for International Peace Studies, in the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Earlier, he was a researcher for the Canadian International Development Agency in Cotabato City, an experience that qualified him as researcher at the United States Institute for Peace in Washington, D.C.

In Jolo he worked as career assistant while studying at Harvard, and research assistant to University of Notre Dame's Professor John Unruh in his Peace Mission Project which was a companion two database of all final peace agreements of its kind in the world.

He returned to the country in 2007 and became the chief of staff in the office of Rep. Yusop Mastura of Sulu's first district, while being a lecturer in law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Notre Dame of Jolo College and the subject Business Law and Philippine Constitutional Law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University where he finished his elementary and secondary schooling.

But when he ran for the board in the subsequent elections of 2004, he lost, as I suspected, which actually proved to be a blessing, because what he got instead was a Fulbright scholarship to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where he earned his master's degree in Public Administration. This was followed by another scholarship at the Free Institute for International Peace Studies, in the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Earlier, he was a researcher for the Canadian International Development Agency in Cotabato City, an experience that qualified him as researcher at the United States Institute for Peace in Washington, D.C.

In Jolo he worked as career assistant while studying at Harvard, and research assistant to University of Notre Dame's Professor John Unruh in his Peace Mission Project which was a companion two database of all final peace agreements of its kind in the world.

He returned to the country in 2007 and became the chief of staff in the office of Rep. Yusop Mastura of Sulu's first district, while being a lecturer in law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Notre Dame of Jolo College and the subject Business Law and Philippine Constitutional Law at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University where he finished his elementary and secondary schooling.

His first published work is "Islam and the 1987 Philippine Constitution: An Issue on the Practice of Religion," in the Notre Dame Law Journal, February 2000. Other articles published in Coast to the Coast include: Election Day, Aug. 8, 2005.)

For four years (2003-2004) he was a weekly columnist of Zamboanga Today, a daily newspaper published in Zamboanga City, where he wrote on issues affecting the youth, like Mayo Despite and the province of Sulu.

As perennial board member he authored the 2002 Provincial Revenue Code and the Taxing Ordinance's Law.

We for all these, and being founding chairman and convener of several organizations, Edd still has time to write 20 pieces in regular publishers in Arabic, Spanish, Bisaya and Bongao.

Edmund Saddat is exceptional. Please indulge him on exception.

• • •

Comments to rafaelpa17@yahoo.com

At last—a consensus bill on population

COMMENTARY
Asuncion David Maravilla

SOME MAY decide the "affluent" business sector is just thinking of themselves and of profit. The fact, is business interests may be crafting the most acceptable consensus bill on population, family planning and development. Led by respected leaders of the Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Integrated Business Conference and the Philippine Center for Population and Development in close collaboration with the Population Commission, it is a topical project given the same research and resources of the best in the country.

Contributions have been made with thoughtful, economists, sociologists, population and development leaders, civil society leaders, the religious of bonta in Baguio, Cebu, Naga, Cagayan de Oro, Catabato City and at the NGO have been held with "an average of 40 to 50 people in attendance per forum." The 1971 National Policy on Population, RA 6365, amended by PDs 79 and 1284, was reviewed. Objectives, Guiding Principles, Implementing Mechanisms have been spelled out. Begun on Nov. 18, 2009, the bill is to be finalized by Dec. 15, 2010.

From these efforts, premises for a population bill have clothed and endorsed with a broader view and some focus.

First, the non-focus. The decline in family size has already taken place. From 6 children per family in the early 1970s (and higher rate of more than 7 percent in 1967), figures dropped to 3.28 and 3.05 percent respectively by 2007. But the decline has taken place "mainly among the wealthier and better educated, not so much among the poor," where "Actual FP" thereby needs to be raised to "Desired FP" and "Unmet FP" to "Met FP." This bill will shift its focus on the poor and has educated and help them get their desired family size.

As for the "broader view," the bill does not stop at population. It addresses three textbook-big concerns as in a triangle: poverty—population—development. A correlation (not equation) among the three to plan (a no-but which) answers what and how to stop the glitch and poll is the great debate between defenders and opponents of population management. Meanwhile "the country's biggest problem continues to be poverty." (Asset 50 Hunger Survey brought" heavens. 7/24/'10) And the poor make up the majority part of our population. One can begin with that.

A democracy can hardly stock amidst real and actual sights of vagrants beneath overpasses and bridges, failed boys duty-eyes dining for scrap meat, unemployment spiraling everyone on Sunday Mountain explosion, fires raging through squatter colonies pouring refugees in street and school, congested hospital halls and rooms, border of schoolchildren in smelly classrooms with how many chairs and books, diseases from with 1,000 illegal connections "like spaghetti," theft is a flashpoint but an anarchic institution—no touch for any leader.

In other words, our poor are in "a poverty trap," an "intergenerational cycle of poverty" that must be broken with every possible "poverty reduction strategy." Do what can be done for poor to reduce (others) poverty and thus the poor for development.

The bill also expresses a point vehemently evaded till now. "The bill is meant for all 16 genus, not only for Catholic Filipinos." Thereby hangs a tale by tale. Consultations and concerns we have been deliberately sought regionally, inter-faith, ecumenical, interdisciplinary, to serve a wide variety of Filipinos in an inclusive bill.

It should please the Church that many bend over backward to listen to her position (even if the front is not reckoned). In fact, those behind this bill have "steered the bill away from those controversial points" to which the Church objects.

But they cannot sacrifice the bill's objectives to "promote family planning among the poor and give them access to their free and informed choice of means to plan their families be it through natural family planning or use of artificial contraceptive" allowed by others. "Education on sexuality and reproductive health" is an integral part of the bill.

Moreover with "all Filipinos" in mind, to mold a bill according to the tenets of one religion may be "favoring one religion" and therefore, violative of the separation of Church and State, and "non-establishment" clause. The "reproductive health," instead of stopping "abortion," "promiscuity," "pills," "sin," "condoms"; maybe we should think "education," "health," "livelihood," "human capital," "social justice."

Anyone who still won't be pleased with this bill, doesn't want to be pleased.

Asuncion David Maravilla is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to maravilla_ph@yahoo.com; fax 8384434

LETTERS

Why agrarian reform is now back to zero

THE EDITOR — In domestic Jovendia's Aug. 11 column, "A son of Apalit's social commitment," he stated, among others, that "Both Cory and Hacienda were beneficiaries of a more political motivation called People Power, thus had no social concern and ideology whatsoever and did not generate any policy or program of social reform. They became heirs to and beneficiaries of a legacy that has been known of social progress and that has not been driven by a mission to redistribute wealth from the very rich to the very poor."I would like to make a reaction to that observation.

Be the landless farmers, land distribution is a commitment to implement at least the equity principle of sustainable development. This means that the Filipino farmers owe it to God who made agrarian reform but various peace groups to promote redistribution and agricultural development through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988. In fact, after more than 14 years of Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) implementation, the total aggregate area of land distributed runs to about 3.6 million hectares, or against the target of 10 million hectares of land available for distribution in 1988, which was reduced to 7.5 million hectares in 1995. However, a study conducted by OXF, a fact-finders-based organization for international cooperation, showed the failure of a land reform program whose aim was merely to distribute land to the tillers without the attendant technical and financial support from the LBP stock distribution option (SDO) scheme geared to enticing landowners to sell their agricultural lands instead and DBP's compulsory or mandated land acquisition scheme have their own set of failures in meeting the main objective of land reform, be both schemes can be considered as back to zero—with the acronyms of DBP-Darmana with Robert Lim of 2009 (Carper).

For the land reform program to bring about lasting social reform and improvements, the Aquino administration should consider a new scheme to adopt and implement one only equity in land distribution but also the three other sustainable development principles, namely: empowerment by building the capability of the tillers, their heirs and women, in particular; good governance; sustainability by making the land perpetually generate services, employment and wealth, and system orientation by integrating the land with the surrounding environment in terms of roads and other infrastructures and development.

—EDUARDO EMERIL, edoderes@yahoo.com

You can play an important role in ensuring that sound and capable people will lead our nation.

Come to our free Franchise Orientation on
September 2 (Thursday), 2010 in our Manila and Cebu Offices.
Registration starts at 9:00 A.M. Orientation begins at exactly 9:30 A.M.
Latecomers will not be entertained.

Filipino citizen • University or college graduate • 23-45 years old • Preferably female

KUMON

Apologies for 'coding error' in House website

THE INFORMATION and Communications Technology Service (ICTS) of the House of Representatives would like to publicly apologize to Rep. Emmanuel E. Pacquiao and Rep. Aloysius D. Sabusalan, Jr. for the erroneous information that appeared in the DBEP website on Aug. 10, 2010.

There was a coding error in the updating of information done on Aug. 9, 2010, resulting in the mix-up in the personal profiles logo, birthdate, civil status and name of spouse) of the two House members. As soon as the ICTS was apprised the personal information of the new House members of the 15th Congress at the time, Representative Pacquiao's page should have been blank. Because of the coding slip-up, his page showed instead the personal information of Representative Sabusalan, whose page was updated.

At least as we're learned of this error last Aug. 16, we immediately made the proper corrections on the website. We have likewise personally apologized to the concerned House members.

We also apologize to every one who may have been inconvenienced by this mistake.

—INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SERVICE,
House of Representatives,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Smoking ban: simple but meaningful suggestion

THE LETTER "Why are criminalize smoking?" (Inquirer, 7/26/10) offers a very simple, yet sensible and meaningful, contributory solution to the global problems of climate change. The letter also highlighted the pervasive apathy and hypocrisy (because of the inconsistent implementation) we have from the tobacco companies and/or the financial windfalls our lawmakers and enforcers are getting from these companies) of our policymakers and law enforcers. I am a smoker myself, but I will be the happiest guy if Member Amador's suggestion is enacted into law and fully implemented.

To Mr. Amador and the framers, I third those for this thought-provoking and extremely relevant letter. I hope our concerned policymakers have read it and will do something about it. It's time to make a substantive difference in our people's lives before it's too late for all of us.

—LEANDRO S. SEITO,
seito_garmets@yahoo.com

Massive peasant unrest

THE LETTER in reaction to the news article titled "Bishop slams land deal" (Inquirer, 8/10/10) "We agree with Bishop Broderick Pabillo, and we are wishing Hacienda Aquino that if the knockoffs Limited land reform is not ended in favor of the long-suffering farmworkers, there down is a high probability that there will be violence before tomorrow all over the country would launch farmworkers in solidarity with their brothers and sisters there rights to till the land.

The President and the Supreme Court should have to distinguishing between of Hacienda Luisita peasants for land. Otherwise, the landless will see the tilling in this case to maintain control of legal technicalities and deny the peasant's social justice.

There is a very high chance that massive peasant unrest could erupt if the decision of the Supreme Court would favor the Cojuangcos. A peasant unrest would be as we of peasants by day would inevitably the peasant struggle to till as lands no land.

In third stone there are many farmworkers advocacy already locked in a life and death struggle for land. Hacienda Benigno and Peralta in Negros are just two of them. The demand of peasants from the beginning has always been the right to till their own land and not to die for nothing but. Our message to the Cojuangco-Aquino clan is simple. "Return all of Hacienda Luisita to the farmworkers, morning now, and morning late."

—FELIX PAL
Block, Kilusang
Magbubukid sa
Hilgitnas-Alkal
(KMP-Alkal),
72-A, Alcadeza,
Mandaluyong,
Quezon, Alley

"We Build Your Dreams"
Your HOME today... an INVESTMENT tomorrow
FOR AS LOW AS 20% DOWNPAYMENT 10yrs TO PAY!
36th anniversary
AUG. 16 - SEPT. 16, 2010
THRU PAG-IBIG, BANK, OR IN-HOUSE FINANCING
CAINTA
SAN MATEO
RIZAL
ESLA HUMAN VILLAGE 6 TOWNHOUSES
ESL LEISURE FARM LOTS
ESL RESORT
SOUTH CHINA SEA DUPLEX
SOUTH CHINA SEA TOWNHOUSES
ESLA Land Developers, Inc.
MANILA: # 220 Chateau Verde Valle Verde 1, Pasig City
Tel. No.: 671-5198 Fax: 671-5132
BACOLOD: Green Valley Village, Bagoor City
Tel. No.: (034) 444-4764
Email: eslaland@yahoo.com
Website: www.eslaland.com

Across the NATION

Bishop takes up cudgels for victims

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto has come to the aid of five suspected communist rebels who earlier accused the police of maltreating them.

Apart from denouncing the supposed torture, Aniceto, the head of the Archdiocese of San Fernando, also appealed for humane treatment of the detainees.

"Such acts of torture are not only morally reprehensible but a clear violation of their dignity and human rights," Aniceto told Chief Supt. Alan Purisima, the new Central Luzon police director, in a letter he sent last week.

"I personally appeal to you, dear general, that the detainees be treated humanely in accord with their human dignity and constitutional rights," Aniceto said.

He was referring to the case of Jose Gomez, Daniel Joseph Stewart, Louie Aslan, Jerry Kimbolan and Rochelle Tido. Aniceto made the appeal at the request of relatives of the detainees.

The police's Provincial Public Safety Command (PPSC) and three Army units arrested the five men on Aug. 5 in this Pampanga capital.

Supt. Madrigal Makarius, PPSC commander, promised them to the provincial prosecutor on Aug. 6 for cases of murder and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Their relatives obtained a writ of amparo after the police denied their access to the five men for about 10 hours.

The police had turned over the five men to the provincial jail as they await trial or preliminary investigation. The suspects denied being leaders and members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the armed wing of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines.

In the letter, Aniceto also told Purisima that the families of the five men were being harassed. "Let the innocent families be spared from further psychological and moral anguish," he said.

In a phone interview on Sunday, Purisima said the police treat suspects or people accused of crime humanely.

While he ordered a fact-finding investigation, Purisima believed that Aniceto might have been misinformed about the situation.

"These men are criminals. They have arrest warrants. They're using the system to free themselves from charges. The police found firearms in their possession," Purisima said.

Told that a police's motion legal report cited bruises, wounds, swelling and cuts on the bodies and faces of the five men, Purisima said they might have "resisted efforts to restrain arrest."

"I have not yet seen that [medico-legal report]," he said.

Makinano denied that he or his men tortured any of the five men. He said they were among the nine rebels who fled a July 30 encounter in Mexico town and they could have incurred wounds from their bolting climb.

On Saturday, the nongovernment Medical Action Group (MAG) met with the five men for the second time to complete a forensic documentation on the supposed torture.

The 9661 said its case will be the first to run the Anti-Torture Act, which was signed into law last year.

The alleged acts of torture are documented in the fact sheets of the human rights group Defend Central Luzon and the Commission on Human Rights. Romulo Oyales, Inquirer Central Luzon

50 families wake up to flooded homes

SAN MARIANO CITY—At least 50 families in Barangay Marcos Drive Patik woke up Sunday their homes flooded.

Feliciano Bautista said he and his family woke up with their house on 3rd floor in the same village submerged in water.

Even the house of city social welfare officer Francisco Ramos was not spared.

Ramos said two other riverside villages, Bonbon and Tagbangan, suffered the same fate.

At least 24 families have been rescued, said Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander Rear Admiral Alexander Pama.

City Water District spokesperson Dolly Cadeau said the water level in Pasonanca Dam reached the critical level of 75.5 centimeters in the normal level of 71+. Jude S. Aljibe, Inquirer Mindanao

PLAYFUL CLOUDS Clouds surround the majestic Mayon Volcano as seen from Barangay Puro, Legazpi City.

FOR DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AT CLARK

Mayor sues Clark airport executives, Aeta leaders

By Jun Malig
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—The president of the Pampanga Mayors' League (PML) filed on Thursday graft charges against officials of the Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) and eight others in connection with the demolition and disaster of 17 old buildings at the civil aviation complex here.

In the complaint filed before the Ombudsman, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, PML president, said CIAC president Victor Jose Lacanilao violated the anti-graft and corrupt practices act and must be held liable for dishonesty and malversation of public funds or property.

Also named respondents were CIAC officers Silverio Clemente and Raul Ingalos; Clark Development Corp. officers Arnel Dwells and Tarcisius Tanyero; Association of Tribal Chieftains president Oscar Bisnar; Sambat Aeta Tribal Association Chair Oscar Rivera; broker Ante Dones and Antonio Castro.

The buildings were demoted for the festival needs of three Aeta groups from June 2009 to May 2010 following a series of requests and directives from the Presidential Management Staff.

In the complaint, Pelayo said Lacanilao was responsible for the demolition of the 17 "economically repairable and serviceable buildings owned by the government amounting to P135 million."

"These demolished facilities could have been used as dormitories for employees who work in various enterprises inside Clark, as training centers and as agricultural food hubs for both domestic and foreign demands," he said.

"If these buildings were renovated instead, they could have been leased to locators and consequently would have brought much needed investments in the area," he added.

But Lacanilao dismissed the case as mere suspension of no-balance and duplication of a case already being lodged here by the Ombudsman.

"There's nothing new here. It's the same old issue and the Ombudsman is already conducting a fact-finding investigation about this," Lacanilao told the Inquirer by phone on Thursday.

The delegation of Ulzon and Rivera were among the beneficiaries of the scrap materials of the demolished buildings. Clemente and Ingalos certified that the donated buildings were dilapidated and no longer serviceable while Pineda and Tinlayao granted CIAC's request for their demolition.

Pelayo said he initiated the eight other respondents to compel them to come out with their affidavits "for the truth to come out."

He said the CIAC fact-finding committee report showed the demolition activities were undertaken without public bidding and without having to account for the proceeds to the government.

"It is time that Lacanilao is made accountable for demolitions without documents for grave abuse of discretion and dishonesty," Pelayo said in the complaint.

Pelayo's accomplishments in the case were Angel Mundo of the Sta. Maria Duplay Barangay Farmers Association and Jose Pagulato, president of the municipal agricultural and fisheries council of Candaba town.

A memo from the Office of the Ombudsman ordered the CIAC office on July 6 to prepare for the investigation on the case.

Lacanilao said he donated the buildings in "good faith" in compliance with Malacañang's requests. He said the buildings were certified dilapidated and unserviceable, an assessment that was confirmed by the Commission on Audit.

Tacloban mayor says no to mining in city

By Jove A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Mayor Alfred Romualdez has declared he is against any mining activity in the city.

The mayor said he had rejected a mining company interested in exploring potential copper deposits in the northern mountain villages of the city.

His opposition to any exploration, or mining operations in the city, stemmed mainly from his fear of an environmental fallout, he said.

"I am not only skeptical about it but totally against it. We cannot afford to sacrifice our environment to whatever we can gain out of any exploration or mining activity," the mayor told reporters here Thursday.

Romualdez added that the villages supposedly identified for exploration were among the landslide-prone areas of the city.

The mayor noted this reaction after being informed that the Philippine Metals Corp. filed an application before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (Region 8) to conduct an exploration for copper deposits in the city.

The company has identified several villages in northern Tacloban as well as villages in Palo (Leyte town) involving more than 9,000 hectares.

Jessie Lorenzo, chief geologist of MGB-8, asked Romualdez to be open-minded about any possible mining activity in Tacloban.

He said safety measures were sure to be put in place by the mining company to ensure that the environment is protected.

"We just hope that the mayor will not close the window for any mining exploration in Tacloban," Lorenzo said in an interview Saturday.

He said MGB is also there to ensure that there would be no harm done to the environment in the course of any mining activity.

Lorenzo was referring to the safety provisions under Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. Under this law, a mining company is mandated to secure an environmental compliance certificate and prepare an environmental protection and enhancement program that detail the methods the company will use to protect the environment.

Lorenzo added that landslides happen whether or not there is a mining activity in a given landslide-prone area.

"Landslides are natural geological processes which we cannot avoid. It happens whether there is a mining activity or not," Lorenzo said.

A MOTHER and her child while away their time at the Lucena railroad station where piles of railway pre-stressed concrete blocks are waiting to be used. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

No demolition in Lucena rail station—PNR

LUCENA CITY—A Philippine National Railways official has assured the neighborhood in the train station here that their houses will not be demolished once the Manila-bound train trips runs next month.

"There is no cause for worry. Unless the house lies within three meters from the center of the nearest track, in which case, it will have to go," said engineer Mauleon Fuggiong, head of the PNR engineering crew that has been preparing the tracks from Calamba City in Laguna to Gumaca, Quezon section.

Rommel Perez, president of the PNR neighborhood dubbed Puntk Pigkakitan, said most residents whose houses had been tagged for demolition in several surveys by railroad officials in the past were assured that they would be re-united.

Fuggiong clarified that the relocation area was still under study.

Last week, the owners of around 200 residential structures at the PNR crossing here demolished portions of their structures that were inside the clearance limit.

"The PNR men came here and measured the distance between my newly constructed store and the railroad tracks. When they found out that it was beyond the limit, I voluntary demolished that part," said the store owner.

The PNR neighborhood committee chairman and Dini with the owners of the regular train trips, they would go back to selling foods and drinks and cargo handling for train passengers.

But Fuggiong said they would no longer be allowed to sell anything once inside the train.

"Every trip has a canteen in one of the coaches ready to serve the passengers," he said.

The Manila-Bicol train run is scheduled to start on the third week of September in time for the Feast of Peñafrancia in Naga City. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

GET A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF 12 ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIPS FOR 2 PERSONS!

SHANGHAI EXPO JACKPOT

Every P3,000 cash or charge single receipt purchase of any HCG bathroom fixture or accessory in participating distributor's nationwide outlets, you to a raffle coupon. The sooner and the bigger your purchase the better your chances of winning.

RAFFLE PRIZE

- Round trip plane tickets for two (2) pax
- Twin sharing hotel accommodation 4 days, 3 nights with free breakfast
- Land transfers (airport to hotel)
- One day Shanghai City tour
- Entrance tickets to the Shanghai World Expo 2010, and photo-ops at the HCG Flagship Showroom
- P20,000 pocket money per couple
- Chinese visa processing fee
- Prize is convertible to cash and tax-free

PROMO PERIOD: JULY 15 TO OCTOBER 15, 2010

"I can live here."

Tension in Benguet town due to mining exploration

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Members of indigenous communities in Kibungan town dropped by to the provincial capital here on Monday to protest a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples' (NCIP) certification that exempted a mining company from conducting prior consent consultations.

Moral Bantugs, a native priest, and former Vice Mayor Susan Atanoc led several elders of the Pahan Indigenous Peoples Community Association (Pipca) in delivering their arguments on the application of Da Gama Minerals Inc. (DGMI) to explore 809 hectares.

The area covered portions of Barangay Sangubungan in Bakiat, and Pahan, particularly Sitio Tablisak. The residents said the project would destroy their environment and source resources.

The protest came on the heels of a string of criminal cases the DGMI filed before the provincial prosecutor's office against Pipca members who allegedly barricaded the area and reinforced the company's workers in a recent scuffle.

Tension has gripped the area since differences have erupted among the mining contingency of Bridle, landowners who have consented to the exploration and those who have opposed the project.

'Too technical'

Elders Basilio Almeda and Dr. Wenil Pangpasan warned the company to exhaust their drilling machines at least 100 km from the site.

Gov. Nestor Fongwan earlier acknowledged the NCIP and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for being "too technical and legalistic" about the issue and for refusing to assert their role to allay any possible eruption of violence in the community.

Despite the NCIP's certification that the mining company was no longer required to conduct a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), Pangpasan said the company must still strive to hold consultations.

"Social acceptability is very important in any development endeavor in areas where there are indigenous communities because lands are sacred to them," he said.

The provincial board, led by Vice Gov. Constancio Pandilet, said it would issue an official resolution once the necessary documents were submitted and the side of the mining company heard.

Rei Board Member Bernard Waclin said even if metallandowners agreed to the exploration, "they are not the only stakeholders and then there must still be consultation."

New twist

Lawyer Roque Agton Jr., NCIP chair, signed the NCIP certification dated July 29. But the notice was issued in favor of another firm, the Cordillera Mining Development Corp. (CMDC), providing a new twist to the already volatile situation.

Documents showed that CMDC was the original entity that acquired a mining loan contract from the MGB in 1987. The contract was supposed to expire by 2022.

But CMDC waived its mining lease rights in DGMI in 2007. The latter used the deed of assignment to bring its equipment to Kibungan in May this year, taking residents by surprise.

The NCIP certifications and the CMDC was excised from acquiring the FPIC since its mineral lease contract was obtained years before the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act No. 8371) took effect in 1997.

The firm required the acquisition of the FPIC in mining and energy projects in indigenous communities.

The Pahan residents said they were firm in opposing the project, whether it was DGMI or CMDC that would run it. They said they should be consulted since their farms, livelihood and water supply are at stake. Delimar Carlos, Inquirer Northern Luzon

C. Visayas workers get ₱18-wage hike

REBEL RETURNEE Bardo Ibrahim, 28, gives himself up and his two guns to Brig. Gen. Pompeyo Lindo, 5th Infantry Division assistant division commander, at Camp Melchor Dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela.

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The workers in Central Visayas could expect an additional ₱18 of their daily minimum wage at the end of August.

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board has issued Wage Order No. 15, which raised the daily minimum wage of the workers in Central Visayas by ₱18 to ₱258 (basic).

This means that the daily minimum wage for workers in Class A areas that include the cities of Cebu, Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu, Danao, Talisay, Carcar and Naga as well as the municipalities of Compostela, Liloan, Consolacion, Cordova, Minglanilla and San Fernando will be increased to ₱305, up from the current ₱287.

The Class B areas that refer to those outside Metro Cebu, including the cities of Bogo and Toledo, but excluding Bantayan and Camotes Island, will have a daily wage of ₱281, up from the previous ₱247.

Bohol and Negros Oriental provinces, which fall under Class C, will have a daily wage of ₱261, up from ₱227.

On the other hand, Siquijor and Bantayan and Camotes Islands, which are considered Class D, will get ₱248, up from ₱222.

However, the board also agreed to delay at least by six months the implementation of the increase for legitimate representative three organizations under the Department of Trade and Industry and the Confederation of Philippine Exporters Foundation (Philexport) Cebu.

Philexport Cebu has around 100 member companies, mostly engaged in furniture manufacturing for export, said Regional Director Elias Cruzmeng of the Department of Labor and Employment in Central Visayas.

The export companies, which also cater to the local market, could not avail of the delayed implementation of the wage hike if their exports do not reach 90 percent of their total production.

The export companies in Mactan Economic Zone were not covered in the delayed implementation. Cruzmeng said status quo after the wage board meeting at around 2 p.m. Thursday.

The region has between 85,000 to 100,000 workers.

With the delayed implementation, Cruzmeng said only around 65,000 to 65,000 workers would initially benefit from the increase.

The increase will take effect 15 days after its publication in the newspapers. The wage board must first submit the wage order to the National Wages Productivity Commission for legal purposes.

Cruzmeng said the board has agreed in principle last week for the ₱18 increase but they only finalized it during the Thursday meeting.

The board agreed on the ₱18-increase based on the cost of living, fuel cost, inflation rate and the cost of the basic services, among others, he said.

Cruzmeng admitted that the difference between the ₱281 minimum wage in Metro Cebu and that of Metro Manila, which is ₱452, would be wider after the wage board in Metro Manila granted a ₱22 wage hike.

However, he maintained that the cost of living in Manila is higher than that of Metro Cebu.

Couple lifts Pangasinan folk songs from oblivion

SAN CARLOS CITY—Lazaro Bilbano and his wife, Shirley have made it their mission to save the folk and love songs of their native Pangasinan from oblivion.

The Bilbano couple, who are educators, revive and popularize native songs and compose new ditties so they can keep the Pangasinan language alive.

"This is our contribution to preserve our cultural heritage and our language which is fast dying," said Lazaro, 49, a professor of English at the Pangasinan State University (PSU).

Lazaro and Shirley, who teach education and music subjects at the Urgela Philippine University Foundation, recorded 50 folk and love songs that Shirley gathered from the different towns and cities where at least 60 percent of residents still speak Pangasinan.

The compilation and recording of the songs formed part of Shirley's dissertation for her doctorate degree in education last year.

Lazaro also produced a compact disc that contained a collection of his original Pangasinan compositions. The songs include "Uneet Ko, Ili Ko Et" [My first, my city], "Mulmol ya Komunidad" [Clean Community], "Solor Toyo, Liniman Toyo" [Let's clean our land] and "Kalibet Libet" [Entanglement].

PEOPLE

The two CDs were launched last week by the Ulupan na Panulukanday Salitan Pangasinan, a group that works for the preservation of the Pangasinan language.

"I wanted to preserve the songs in all their pride and glory," Shirley said.

Shirley sang the 50 songs in the compilation, while Lazaro, who has a master's degree in music education, did the musical arrangement.

Lazaro and Shirley are members of the Tambuwo singers, a chorale specializing in Pangasinan folk songs and which scored in the PSU in the 1980s.

The songs in the Bilbano couple's CDs include Pangasinan lullabies, nursery rhymes and children's songs, courtship and wedding songs, work-related and comedy songs, and funeral and burial songs.

"These songs represent a great part of the lives ... of Pangasinenses, [embodying] the direct and spontaneous outburst of people's feelings," Shirley said.

"Pangasinan is rich in folk songs but most of these are already lost. Thus, the young generation immersed in popular songs could hardly connect with folk songs. We hope we can revitalize folk songs with our recordings," she said. Rolando Javier, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SHIRLEY Bilbano, accompanied by husband Lazaro, sings Pangasinan folk songs to convey awareness of the province's culture and heritage.

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NOON

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN NGAYON

Ang **SMOKEY MOUNTAIN** ay isa nang malago, maaliwalas at ganap na komunidad

Ang Smokey Mountain NOON ay kumakatawan sa ating pambansang kahihiyan

- Ang kahirapan ng buhay sa Smokey Mountain ay nasa pinaka-malalalang antas. Walang kapuri-puri, lubog at nakatirik at ang mga tao ay nagpapalit lang makabuhay sa pamamagitan ng pagkakalkal ng basura.
- Libu-libong kalalakan sa paligid nito ang pinili na tamang ang pamumuhay ng basura sa halip na mag-aral
- Ilanga lahat ng kalakalan ay walang makain na naging sanhi ng malnutrisyon.
- Ang masaklit na katotohanan ay walang tumatawag sa Smokey Mountain dahil wanga silang timatawan ng buhay dala ng sari-saring sakit kabilad ng cholera, dysentery, hepatitis at iba pang nakamatayan. Karamihan sa kanila ay hindi na umabot sa edad na 30 anyos dahil sa mga sari-saring sakit na dala ng kahirapan.

Ang kawalang pag-asa ay napalitan ng masidhing layunin na itigil na ang pagkamatay bahala

...NGAYON

Sa pagtutulungan ng pamahalaan at ng 8-9 Builders, Inc.,

- Umusgat na ang ang kalidad ng kanilang buhay. Karamihan sa mga naninirahan sa Smokey Mountain ay may sapat at marangal na kabuhayan.
- Ang Smokey Mountain ay isa nang ganap na komunidad dahil ang halos tatlong libong pamilyang (o mahigit sa 25,000 katao) naninirahan dito ay may maayos na pamahayan, may sariling paaralan, palengke, simbahan, at lugar para sa paliwanan.
- May mahirik na lubig na malinam, may sapat na kuryente at maaliwalas na kapaligiran
- Ang lahat ng naninirahan ay binigyan ng mga karampatang pagsasanay upang makahanap ng maayos na trabaho at pagkakakitaan

Ngunit bakit may naninira, bakit may nanggugulo?

Cordillera execs drafting 3rd autonomy bill

BAGUIO CITY—Cordillera governors, mayors and line agency directors began hammering together a third autonomy bill even as they say they remain nothing to smear the Cordillera autonomous region, convinced it is listed because of the assumption of another President Aquino.

Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Governors Jesli Bare of Kalinga, Eugene Balbalasing of Ifugao, Elias Bulut of Apayao, and Leonard Mayaen of Mt. Province agreed to craft a new autonomy measure, calculating that the Cordillera law makers have enough time to get support from Congress during the term of Mr. Aquino.

His resolve, the late President Corazon Aquino, created the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in 1987 after hearing a unanimity of heartbreaking with Moro rebel priest Leonardo Rabang.

The 1987 Constitution, which was crafted after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, grants autonomy to the Cordillera and Muslim Mindanao.

But two previous autonomy measures failed to win their respective plebiscites on 1990 and 1998, as Baguio announced that the failure of a third autonomy exercise should mean that the Cordillera must support Charter change instead.

Bare said another Cordillera rejection of autonomy means the autonomy provision benefiting the Cordillera must be scrapped "or else it will hang over our heads forever."

The officials answered the regional development council (RDC), which has found through a 2006 survey that 95 percent of Cordillerans are oblivious to the concept of Cordillera autonomy. Most of the 10 percent who do understand autonomy have its passage as a new law.

Domogan said the region must "learn to take advantage of the opportunities offered by an Aquino administration and the Constitutional autonomy provision."

He said he was disturbed by the fact that some of the people cited by the survey as opposed to a new autonomy bill were government employees.

"Don't they know they are employed only because we passed autonomy (before 1987)? Aren't they ashamed?" he said.

Lawyer Nestor Astrog, who helped organize the 1987 peace ordinances in behalf of Bishop's Conference People's Liberation Army wrote Mr. Aquino on July 11 urging him to reactivate the three governing bodies of the administrative region.

At the presiding of Cordillera lawmakers, Congress stopped budgetary allocations for the Cordillera Executive Board, the Cordillera Regional Assembly and the Cordillera Bodong Administration from 2008 to 2010.

These agencies were formed by Executive Order No. 220, which created the CAR, and which remains in effect. The RDC took over the functions of these agencies. Hector Gabriel, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A MOTHER of an indigenous people from Mindanao puts coins in trash cement as a symbolic offering for a successful dialogue with government officials during a ritual outside the environment department in Quezon City. MARY TORRES

More SLASH, less cash!

We've slashed the first figure for incredibly low, low fares!

Sale Period: Aug. 15-16, 2010 or until seats last • Travel Period: Jun. 1 – Jul. 31, 2011

ALL DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

₱X99 Manila to Coron (Busuanga), Iloilo, San Jose (Mindoro), Naga or Virac
Cebu to Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro or Iloilo

₱X99 Manila to Boracay (Caticlan), Cauayan (Isabela), Dumaguete or Roxas
Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan), Butuan, Clark, Dipolog, Puerto Princesa or Siargao

₱X99 Manila to Bacolod, Calbayog, Catarman, Cebu, Kalibo, Legaspi or Tuguegarao
Cebu to Dumaguete, Surigao or Tacloban
Davao to Cagayan de Oro

₱X,199 Cebu to General Santos, Legaspi, Ozamiz, Zamboanga or Pagadian NEW!
Davao to Iloilo or Zamboanga

₱X99 Manila to Loeog, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban or Tagbilaran
Cebu to Davao

₱X,699 Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao or Surigao NEW!

₱X,799 Manila to Butuan, Calbaba, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Zamboanga or Pagadian NEW!

INTERNATIONAL

₱1,499 Manila to Kalo Kinabalu or Jolpal
₱1,999 Manila to Guangzhou
₱2,299 Cebu or Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,499 Manila to Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh or Macau
Cebu to Hong Kong
₱2,899 Manila to Brunei NEW!

₱2,999 Manila to Bangkok or Singapore
Cebu to Singapore
₱3,499 Manila to Kuala Lumpur
Cebu to Bangkok
₱3,999 Manila to Incheon, Jakarta or Shanghai
Cebu to Busan or Incheon
₱4,999 Manila to Beijing NEW!

INTERNATIONAL

₱5,999 Manila to Osaka

(Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Fares are non-refundable. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. As Low Fares are available upon booking the quoted travelling without check-in baggage. Add ₱1,000 to this rate upon booking 14 kilos of baggage. CAB approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/about/terms_and_conditions.asp. Call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.)

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

SOMETHING BIG

BDO

DENR exec warns of landslides in Banahaw

LUCENA CITY—A geologist from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources expressed alarm over recent landslides near the Mount Banahaw summit and declared there a potential threat to the safety of low-lying communities.

"The reactivation of debris will most likely happen again. It's natural. It could be a threat to the safety of communities in the mountain slopes," Oundi Baconawa, Mines and Geoscience Bureau Mining and Environment Safety Division chief, told the reporter after an aerial inspection of the landslide site on Thursday.

He urged all concerned government agencies, local governments of Lucban, Quezon, and the private sector to order and immediately undertake safety measures to avert a catastrophe.

The inspection team aboard a military chopper got a close view of the landslide that left a huge descending pockmark on the mountain, considered sacred by devotees.

Mario Malinis, head of the Southern Luzon State University-Forest Protection Unit, based in Lucban, 130 kilometers south of Metro Manila, shared Jaramillo's fears that any continued strong rains could again cause another avalanche of mountain debris.

Banana

He clarified, however, that if the same spot would trigger another landslide, it would not hit the Lucbanan town proper.

"The threat of a landslide burying the town proper is remote. The landslide trace is way off the town. I have to clarify this to avoid panic," Malinis said.

He asked the DENR to immediately construct a geo-hazard study on the side of Balagbag facing the town proper. "It would be of great help so that the people of Lucban be aware the conditions of Banahaw directly to them of them."

He said the town is threatened with possible overflow of its two rivers from the cascading volume of rain waters from the mountain in case of continuous heavy rains.

Dredging

He called on the government to undertake immediate dredging of the rivers for unhampered flow of raging floodwaters from Banahaw.

As the height of Typhoon "Basyang" in July, the continuous heavy rainfall triggered a five-kilometer long landslide that started near the apex of Banahaw, around 1,800 meters above sea level.

The landslide started from a cinch of loose soil and cascaded to about five kilometers down slope, the villages of Ibabang Dupay of Nilo, Tinamnan and Mamala in Guinlon.

Several growth trees were uprooted and boulders, the biggest of which was about the size of a tricycle or jeepney, were washed away along with loose soil because to damage to lives and properties.

Nabalo said the recent landslide near the mountain summit covered more than three hectares. "Its debris cascaded towards two dead creeks and created 7 meters and 15 meters wide gulley," he said.

As part of protective measures, Dr. Guillermo Lanuza, SLSU president, urged the government to initiate projects to stabilize the steep mountain slopes to control soil erosion.

"All the blockades should be regularly removed so that it will not obstruct the natural flow of water. This is a very tough job to do but is needed," Lanuza said.

Though it was established that the landslide was not man-made, Sally Bergen, SLSU-park area superintendent, still called on villagers along the slopes of Banahaw and adjacent Mount San Cristobal to stop kaingin farming and instead plant forest and fruit-bearing trees within the peripheral boundaries of their farm lots. Stella T. Mollet II, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Japan PM shuns shrine, apologizes for WW II

TOKYO—Japan's new liberal prime minister shunned a visit to a shrine that has outraged Asian neighbors for honoring war criminals, breaking from the previous premiers' tradition and instead apologizing Sunday for the suffering World War II caused.

Members of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which had ruled Japan nearly continuously for more the end of the war, made a point by not ring out their own trip to Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Shinto shrine—a spokesman for building with sweeping roofs and a mountain in its grounds that glorifies Japanese war dead, including Class A war criminals such as Hideki Tojo, Japan's wartime prime minister who was executed in 1948.

Other nations in Asia paused to remember Japan's surrender which ended the war.

From Nanjing—the site of a 1937 massacre by Japanese troops—to the Yasukuni Shrine, people paid for the millions who died in war and expressed hopes for peace.

The reckoning with history has taken special meaning as it comes amid a global effort to realize a world without nuclear weapons, a mission headed by US President Barack Obama.

Among those who visited Yasukuni was LDP leader Sadakazu Tanigaki and former Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe. Above 40 legislators went to the shrine. No more than Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, Kan's predecessor, according to Japanese media reports.

Kan leads the Democratic Party, which took power last year after winning elections on promises of greater transparency and government democracy. It is the first time

JAPAN'S Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, bow in prayer at the Budokan martial arts hall in Tokyo on Sunday to honor the millions of Japanese killed in World War II.

since the end of the war that the entire Japanese cabinet has avoided visiting Yasukuni on Aug. 15, the day Japan surrendered in war.

"We caused great damage and suffering to many nations during the war, especially to the people of Asia," Kan told a crowd of 6,000 at an annual memorial service for the war dead at Budokan hall in Tokyo.

"We feel a deep regret, and we offer our sincere feelings of condolence to those who suffered and their families," he said. "We renew our promise to never wage war, and we promise to do our utmost to achieve eternal world peace and to never repeat again the mistake of war."

Among those listening to Kan's words were Emperor Akihito, whose father Hirohito announced the surrender 65 years ago in a radio broadcast—the first time the Japanese public had heard the real voice of the emperor, who had been revered as a living god to justify imperial expansion.

Akihito, who has never visited Yasukuni, led a moment of silence, bowing deeply before a stage filled with yellow and white chrysanthemums.

The families and friends of the Japanese who died in the war included a gray-haired woman in a wheelchair clutching a black and white photo of a soldier, framed their heads in silence for a minute.

Japanese media identified the woman as Chizuko Takahara, 86, whose husband died in the Philippines.

"I feel once again a deep sadness for those many who lost their precious lives and for their families," Akihito said, attending the ceremony with his wife Michiko. "I pray for the continued prosperity of our nation and for world peace."

Tsutomi Imai, a professor of politics at Nihon University, said Kan's shunning the Yasukuni visit underlined the forerunners' pacifist policies.

Last week, Kan apologized to South Korea for Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule. Imperialist Japan committed atrocities in Asia, including forcing Koreans to fight as front-line soldiers, work in slave labor conditions and serve as prostitutes in military-run brothels.

"It's the Japanese government that is making such visits controversial," he said. Government ministers "should put some focus. It's as simple as that." *Reports from AP and AFP*

A COUPLE, among hundreds, swoon on on Times Square in New York City to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II on Saturday. They reenacted the iconic photograph of a sailor passionately kissing a nurse at the end of the war.

Hundreds kiss to mark 65th year of war's end

From page A1

scene replicating the original photo was also convened for the celebrations.

An estimated 5,000 hopefuls played the military hunk or nurse "Tags" coast to coast.

World War II veterans and their children on hand for the kiss said they wanted today's generations to remember the sacrifices of those who fought in the war.

"I want to keep that day alive," said Ernest Mestres, 86, a retired infantry staff sergeant now living in Oviedo.

Mestres, who received Purple Hearts on D-Day and arrived on Times Square in the uniform, kissed his friend Margie Estick, who served in the Women's Army Corps.

"It was terrific," he said of the kiss. "It's been a long time coming."

The Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive! group, now campaign was holding a series of events around the country marking the day.

Edith Shain, who said she was the nurse in the original photo, died in June at the age of 91. Alfred Eisenstaedt, the photographer, died in 1995.

Shain had become something of a celebrity because of the photo and wanted to leverage that fame into a worthy cause, said Warren Hegg, national supervisor for the Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive! campaign.

"It really became Edith's mission in life that there would be this national day, that every day someone thought about that day in August when a girl was kissed in Times Square," that people would think about it more deeply," Hegg said.

"She said we should have a day for all the ordinary men and women of that generation who did so many remarkable things and never were really recognized for that. The people who endured the Great Depression, came through democracy and then went on and rebuilt the world," Hegg said.

Reports from AP, Reuters and AFP

Japan's 100-year-olds a vanishing breed

From page A1

believed to be elderly that is overlooked in the filing.

That news before the police found the body of a man thought to be one of Japan's oldest, at 111 years, overwhelmed his last dead for more than three decades.

His daughter, now 81, hid his death to continue collecting his monthly pension payments, the police said.

Alarmed, local governments began sending teams to check on other elderly residents. What they found so far has been anything but encouraging.

Last seen in 1980s

A woman thought to be Tokyo's oldest, who would be 113, was last seen in the 1980s.

Another woman, who would be the oldest in this world at 125, is also missing, and probably has been for a long time. When city officials tried to visit her at her registered address, they discovered that the site had been turned into a city park in 1981.

The authorities have been unable to find more than 254 Japanese who had been listed in official records as 100 years old or older.

Facing a growing public outcry, the country's health minister, Akira Nagatsuma, said officials would meet with every person listed as 113 or older to verify that they are alive. Tokyo officials made the same promise for the 3,000 or so residents listed as 100 and up.

The national hand-wringing over the revelations has reached such proportions that the rising toll of people missing has swelled daily, and mournful, front-page coverage.

"Is this the reality of a longevity nation?" an editorial lamented last week in The Mainichi newspaper, one of Japan's biggest dailies.

Among those who officials have confirmed is alive: a 113-year-old woman in the southern prefecture of Saga believed to be the country's oldest person, at least for now.

The real searching over the many lapsed people has hit the rapidly gray megacountry — and headed to the areas of

JAPAN'S Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, bow in prayer at the Budokan martial arts hall in Tokyo on Sunday to honor the millions of Japanese killed in World War II.

since the end of the war that the entire Japanese cabinet has avoided visiting Yasukuni on Aug. 15, the day Japan surrendered in war.

"We caused great damage and suffering to many nations during the war, especially to the people of Asia," Kan told a crowd of 6,000 at an annual memorial service for the war dead at Budokan hall in Tokyo.

"We feel a deep regret, and we offer our sincere feelings of condolence to those who suffered and their families," he said. "We renew our promise to never wage war, and we promise to do our utmost to achieve eternal world peace and to never repeat again the mistake of war."

Among those listening to Kan's words were Emperor Akihito, whose father Hirohito announced the surrender 65 years ago in a radio broadcast—the first time the Japanese public had heard the real voice of the emperor, who had been revered as a living god to justify imperial expansion.

Akihito, who has never visited Yasukuni, led a moment of silence, bowing deeply before a stage filled with yellow and white chrysanthemums.

The families and friends of the Japanese who died in the war included a gray-haired woman in a wheelchair clutching a black and white photo of a soldier, framed their heads in silence for a minute.

Japanese media identified the woman as Chizuko Takahara, 86, whose husband died in the Philippines.

"I feel once again a deep sadness for those many who lost their precious lives and for their families," Akihito said, attending the ceremony with his wife Michiko. "I pray for the continued prosperity of our nation and for world peace."

Tsutomi Imai, a professor of politics at Nihon University, said Kan's shunning the Yasukuni visit underlined the forerunners' pacifist policies.

Last week, Kan apologized to South Korea for Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule. Imperialist Japan committed atrocities in Asia, including forcing Koreans to fight as front-line soldiers, work in slave labor conditions and serve as prostitutes in military-run brothels.

"It's the Japanese government that is making such visits controversial," he said. Government ministers "should put some focus. It's as simple as that." *Reports from AP and AFP*

Ateneo Law Faculty Statement

The decision of the Supreme Court in Hisaya v. Executive Secretary, G.R. No. 189155, promulgated on 20 April 2010, is presently the subject of much attention and debate in the media on account of the very serious accusation of plagiarism. We are deeply concerned that the issue is now being tried before the court of public opinion even as the motion for reconsideration and the issue of plagiarism are both pending with the Supreme Court. We believe that it is every lawyer's duty to respect the processes pending with the Court, and every act that tends to influence the decision of the Court should be avoided.

We urge everyone who wishes to make an informed decision, especially the lawyers, to read the decision of the Supreme Court in Hisaya v. Executive Secretary (a copy of which is available on-line through the Philippine Supreme Court's website: http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph) before making a judgment on whether the Court intended to appropriate the ideas of another by considering the citations, quotations, and restatements in the decision. Unfortunately for the Supreme Court, certain writers are facing the charge of plagiarism to be tried before the court of public opinion. And in this venue, as scholars well-known, one only stand to suffer the grave and irreparable injury of a tarnished reputation.

We also call upon the members of the legal community to respect the sub judice rule, which prevents any person from discussing in public any matter which relates to a pending case. This is precisely why lawyers are held to a higher code of professional responsibility, which prohibits them from making "public statements in the media regarding a pending case tending to arouse public opinion for or against a party." (Rule 13-01, Code of Professional Responsibility)

The Supreme Court has closely scrutinized an Ethics Committee to investigate the issue of plagiarism, and the grounds for the petitioners have already ventilated their allegations in their Supplemental Motion for Reconsideration. We should give the Supreme Court a chance to come out with its decision and rule on this issue with finality. With the renewed hope and optimism brought by the new administration, now, more than ever, should Filipinos put more faith in the judiciary and refrain from making statements that undermine its integrity not just in our country but also in the international community. We should trust the Supreme Court, our court of last resort, to decide this matter with fairness and justice.

(Sgd.) Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. Ateneo Emeritus	(Sgd.) Cesar L. Villanueva Dean
(Sgd.) Eduardo de los Angeles (Dean, 1994-1998)	(Sgd.) J. Antonio Hoffmon
(Sgd.) Fr. Antonio Perez, S.J.	(Sgd.) J. Emilio P. Bautista
(Sgd.) Judge Rodolfo B. Bonifacio	(Sgd.) Jacinto D. Jimenez
(Sgd.) Sy. Prof. Dennis Villa-Ignacio	(Sgd.) Mahrosa S. Ito Ishida
(Sgd.) Liberato V. Villegas	(Sgd.) Cesar A. Amores, Jr.
(Sgd.) Albert B. Pelaeio	(Sgd.) Jose Antonio B. Cortes
(Sgd.) Teresita Sobredo III	(Sgd.) Michael G. Aguinaldo
(Sgd.) Ferdinand M. Cani	(Sgd.) Giovanni P. Vellente
(Sgd.) Joseph Jan Pedro	(Sgd.) Vicente P. Abeto
(Sgd.) Francisco R. Gonzales	(Sgd.) Jose M. Roy III
(Sgd.) Hermann S. Ocsaca	(Sgd.) Agustin B. Montilla IV
(Sgd.) Benjamin E. Lerma	(Sgd.) Alberto Tolosa-Lerma
(Sgd.) Michael Dean N. Montero	(Sgd.) Rosalio B. Gonzales
(Sgd.) Lester T. Ogsimer	(Sgd.) V. Jelsen Sapirm
(Sgd.) Rose Rico-Pasillo	(Sgd.) Jorge Alfonso C. Mole
(Sgd.) Patricia Cristina T. Figueroa	(Sgd.) Howard M. Calleja

Gov't plans to sell 2 TV stations in 2 years

From page A1

would be appointed by the PCGG, to be announced by the Office of the President."

Colonia said the executive changes in the country that the Aquino administration promised would include the communications sector, the broadcast networks ABS-CBN and IBC-13 and even the government station SBN-4.

"Even the government radio station Radyo ng Bayan would not be spared if it be changes the President wants to happen, also the National Printing Office," he said.

Similar to BBC

In the case of SBN-4, Colonia said his office would seek to come up with televised programs similar to those of the British Broadcasting System (BBC).

"We want quality programs for viewers," he said.

"Much as we want them to, to happen soon, there is a process we need to observe. We envision that it can happen within two years," said Colonia, who has to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA) to be concurrence the privatization of BBN-4 and IBC-13.

Grilling

Colonia said he was ready to face grilling by the CA.

"The Constitution is clear on the matter that the press secretary undergoes confirmation by the (CA) and Executive Order No. 4 is clear in renaming and reorganizing the Office of the Press Secretary. So it is also clear that I should face (the Commission on Appointments) and I am ready," Colonia said in a radio interview.

Colonia expressed confidence that Senator Walky Cayetano, head of the Senate Committee on Public Services, would also be prepared to undergo scrutiny by the commission.

"Congress has the right to examine executive operations and our budgets. He recognizes confirmation by the CA as part of check and balances," he added.

Relaunch of website

Colonia's first major project is the relaunch and relaunch of www.gov.ph of the Malacañang website (www.president.gov.ph) that would give regular updates on the activities of President Aquino.

The website, which has links to various government offices and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, would also receive feedback from its visitors.

Colonia said the former Malacañang website set up during the time of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "was closed and discontinued when her administration ended. So we created a new structure."

Colonia is now making the rounds of other media-related offices of the government such as the Philippine Information Agency and the Bureau of Broadcast Services to meet with their officials.

"We ask for updates on their activities and for their views and suggestions on how to improve our delivery of services. And since the executive department is preparing for budget hearings, we also need inputs from different agencies to determine important items in the budget that need to be prioritized," Colonia said.

Budget

For fiscal year 2010, the Office of the Press Secretary was allotted P1.2 billion.

Colonia said he did not plan to increase this amount "given the guidelines given to us that submitted proposals lower than the present."

"For 2012, we need to sit down and rationalize because the President appealed for a budget reduction lower than the current year. It's important to determine how much money we have to use for information dissemination," he said.

Bishop urged to live among Luisita farmers

From page A1

do the 1989 stock distribution option (SDO) on lieu of a piece of land to end a 20-year dispute.

This happens yesterday read in reader Cardinal, but he was not in his convent. He did not attend rally.

Reached by phone, Imin said religious leaders should defend the plight of farmworkers because Mr. Aquino's family had used "deception and conspiracy" to convince them in a so-called referendum a week ago to retain the SDO arrangement.

Roger Amoran, vice chair of PARM Luisita, another group of farm workers, said the chairperson Cardinal, and the Cojuangcos, was the "real and only arbiter in the agrarian dispute."

Amoran urged Cardinal to talk with farm workers so he would have a deeper understanding of their plight and how important land was in getting themselves out of poverty.

Do a reality check

"Sir (Cardinal) should live for a year in the plantation to see what it was like. It would also be better for him to see previously who how the farmers were exploited to forge the agreement," the group said in a statement.

PRRM Luisita officials maintained that the ALL management scored confusion, rumors and intimidation to compel the villagers agree with the deal.

Militant groups also criticized Cardinal.

"All this time we are expecting (Cardinal) to propagate the Gospel of land, justice and redemption, but what we received from him is the Gospel of subjugation," Pandan said, bishops line what you said is really disappointing," said Fernando Hicap, chair of the Mambubukid Lakas ng Kilusang Magsasakang Pilipinas (Mabuklas).

"We ask the bishop to have a reality check and pursue genuine dialogue with the farmers," he added.

FARMERS in Hacienda Luisita line up while waiting to get their share of financial assistance after agreeing to accept shares of stocks instead of parcels of land from the management of the plantation.

Cardinal Sin was the Cojuangcos' choice for the removal of Ferdinand Marcos' predecessor, Corazon Aquino, as president in 1986.

The massive rival accuses people the refusal of farmers to heed the advice of Mr. law senators Miriam Defensor Santiago, Ralph Recto and tax experts like Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Arroyo said a legal suit could have been avoided had farmers agreed to defer the implementation of the sun on road toll by at least a week to absorb the other views from Congress.

"Congress and the executive branch should talk with each other before the TRO because both are part of the same government. A good lawyer who goes to court is not as good as one who stands it as much as possible from confrontation. I don't see why they want to bring the matter to the Supreme Court," said Arroyo.

He said Mr. Aquino should understand the difference between the law and state policy.

"If the President thinks that a policy is not good for the government, he should not impose it. (With the SAL on road toll), he has already broken his campaign promise on no new taxes," Arroyo said.

Impact on morale

He said the legal team should have given more thought to EO 3, not only to its legality but also to its impact on the morale of lawyers from the Department of Justice and Office of the Solicitor General.

"They would be hard to replace. I don't even have to qualify the new ones again. The affected lawyers are those who would have defended the government," Arroyo said.

EO 2 would also create a big gap problem for the government if the high court decided to revoke it until Malacañang's appointees have to give way to the previous occupants of their posts.

"What will the government do with them?" Arroyo asked.

Overeager

"I don't want to criticize the (President's) lawyers because it is not fair to them. But they should not be overeager just like a bridegroom who cannot wait for his wedding night," he said.

Arroyo then noted that President Corazon Aquino had a more high-powered team... an, notably former Senator President Jovito Salonga, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Jr., Fortunato and Dado Ramirez.

"All of them were trained in Harvard and we had zero problems with the Supreme Court because we are honorable," Arroyo said.

He said that Cory Aquino's EO 1, which created the Presidential Commission on Good Government, was approved without reservations from the draft of her lawyers.

But Mr. Aquino need not get better lawyers, according to Arroyo. He said the President's team should just take it slow and study its moves before taking any action.

"There is really no need to rush," the senator said.

Joker tells Noy's legal team: Don't act rashly

- The imposition of the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on road toll that was supposed to begin today was halted. The Supreme Court issued a TRO on Friday upon the petition filed by one of the VAT law authors, former Rep. Roberto Nini. Senator Vicente Sotto III filed a similar challenge to the Expanded VAT Law.

In an interview on dzBB radio, Arroyo said that as much as possible, the government should avoid getting entangled in legal suits especially one arising as the Aquino administration.

"It is unfair to the Supreme Court because you are making them overworked," said Arroyo, the first executive secretary of Mr. Aquino's mother, the late President Corazon Aquino.

The senator cited as an example the refusal of Senators to heed the advice of VAT law authors like Sens. Ralph Recto and tax experts like Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Arroyo said a legal suit could have been avoided had farmers agreed to defer the implementation of the sun on road toll by at least a week to absorb the other views from Congress.

"Congress and the executive branch should talk with each other before the TRO because both are part of the same government. A good lawyer who goes to court is not as good as one who stands it as much as possible from confrontation. I don't see why they want to bring the matter to the Supreme Court," said Arroyo.

He said Mr. Aquino should understand the difference between the law and state policy.

"If the President thinks that a policy is not good for the government, he should not impose it. (With the SAL on road toll), he has already broken his campaign promise on no new taxes," Arroyo said.

Impact on morale

He said the legal team should have given more thought to EO 3, not only to its legality but also to its impact on the morale of lawyers from the Department of Justice and Office of the Solicitor General.

"They would be hard to replace. I don't even have to qualify the new ones again. The affected lawyers are those who would have defended the government," Arroyo said.

EO 2 would also create a big gap problem for the government if the high court decided to revoke it until Malacañang's appointees have to give way to the previous occupants of their posts.

"What will the government do with them?" Arroyo asked.

Overeager

"I don't want to criticize the (President's) lawyers because it is not fair to them. But they should not be overeager just like a bridegroom who cannot wait for his wedding night," he said.

Arroyo then noted that President Corazon Aquino had a more high-powered team... an, notably former Senator President Jovito Salonga, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Jr., Fortunato and Dado Ramirez.

"All of them were trained in Harvard and we had zero problems with the Supreme Court because we are honorable," Arroyo said.

He said that Cory Aquino's EO 1, which created the Presidential Commission on Good Government, was approved without reservations from the draft of her lawyers.

But Mr. Aquino need not get better lawyers, according to Arroyo. He said the President's team should just take it slow and study its moves before taking any action.

"There is really no need to rush," the senator said.

Pagcor eyes expansion before privatization

From page A1

be a better chance for us to get a higher price for Pagcor's privatization," he added.

According to Santiago, Pagcor chair Cristina Gaguiat's order to put on hold all applications for new gaming licenses did not prevent Pagcor from opening its own gambling facilities.

"While we have suspended the application of private proponents for the meantime, it doesn't prevent us from opening (new Pagcor-owned casinos)," he said.

Pagcor operates 13 casinos in 10 major cities in the country, including 28 satellite casinos, 34 VIP clubs and basic gambling arcades.

Tiger economy

Proponents in privatize Pagcor have sparked interest among business groups.

San Miguel Corp. vice president Ramon Ang earlier told the Inquirer that he was willing to buy Pagcor for $10 billion and that he could revive Malaysia's "big boys," including billionaires Robert Kuok, to invest in the country's gaming industry.

Ang said the windfall from Pagcor's privatization could help Mr. Aquino make the country a "tiger economy" in the Asia-Pacific region.

But Kuok, who owns the Shangri-La chain of posh hotels, said he had never been in the gambling business and had no interest in Pagcor.

A Hong Kong-based real estate and hotel corporation, and Belle Corp.'s Willy Ocier also reportedly showed interest in taking over the monopoly gambling operations in the country.

New casinos

Pagcor officials said the $10 billion (about P430 billion) price tag that Ang offered was "too small," saying the gaming firm could still bring in at least P600 billion before its franchise ends in 2033.

Santiago declined to say where Pagcor might put up new gambling establishments and how much it would earn.

"We will respect the policies set by President Aquino regarding casino operations," Santiago said.

Fiba kicks off 3-on-3 basketball in Youth Olympics

From page A1

Olympics as seen in 2010.

"That is a fair dream," Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann told the Associated Press.

The format must first succeed in one of the most anticipated events in the inaugural youth games.

Called Fiba 3X, it is played on a half-court with both teams scoring in one basket and the first one to reach 21 points.

Games are limited to 10 minutes, or the first player to reach 21 points.

Shots taken outside the three-point line will be worth a new play. Teams must pass at least once before shooting and dribbling is not allowed.

"The IOC (International Olympic Committee) is excited that we have opted to use the South Olympics to do something new," Baumann said. "It gives us the opportunity to have a fresh look at the game and to learn a little bit from the more extreme sports on the streets."

Singapore has become the second Asian host for Fiba 3X, after hosting a medal event during the 2009 Asian Youth Games.

The gold was won by China where enthusiasm for the format is "beyond our imagination," according to Baumann.

Asians love it

"There is a lot of excitement in Southeast Asia about 3-on-3. They love it and have tournaments almost every week," he said.

However, the format was created in the United States.

"In the US it was an easy way for kids to just developed areas to play the game," Baumann said. "At some point in the late 90s, early 2000s it has been used by big apparel companies to attract kids to basketball and sell shoes."

Fiba hopes the United States will be well-matched in Singapore by best-ranked basketball nations and ranked by a panel that is cheaper and easier to organize and coach.

"I really hope it is a small country that wins. I am sure there will be some surprises," Baumann said.

Only the host and the United States are represented in both 20 team competitions.

The boys' lineup includes Iran, the Philippines, Spain and the Virgin Islands. Girls' teams from Angola, China, Thailand and Tanzania will take part in their 16-day event.

The Philippines' four-man squad in the 3-on-3 events comprises Jason Ilang, Michael Ildefonso, Michael Pare and Bobby Ray Parks.

Tournament and the rules eventually would be modified without compromising the free spirit of street 3-on-3. The game also will be latter structured to stop teenagers dribbling away from organized basketball, and promote more street opportunities.

To ensure a smooth rankings system, Fiba is working with technology companies and maintain problems from a team autonomy.

The federation also is talking with scorecasters in volleyball to understand how to tweak

More Sports on A29-A32

Late SPORTS
Editor Tobbric S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Beermen refuse to die, nip Aces

By Musong R. Cuzilla

WITH ANOTHER coaching change, San Miguel Beer bucked what a 98-94 decision over Alaska in crossed their best-of-seven title series for the PBA Fiesta Conference on a sixth game at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Gee Abanilla, the second man in this tournament to give head coach Siot Tanquingcen a spell, gave Alaska coach Tim Cone a new problem as San Miguel succeeded the Aces to a defensive-oriented game to sweep series 4-3.

Gabriel Freeman scattered 18 points and had 14 rebounds and Dennis Miranda finished with 12 points and five assists in a vote **save as the point for the Beermen.**

Miranda, the former Far Eastern University ace guard, drained a jumper that gave San Miguel the lead for good, 96-94, with 2:14 left.

Alaska had a chance to clinch the series and its first championship since 2006, but Cyrus Baguio's three-pointer at the buzzer fell just short.

Elated to a scheduled date at the Big Dome on Wednesday.

"Alaska will make the adjustments," Abanilla told reporters after rounding his first win in a title series. He also had spells calling the shots for Red Bull under Yeng Guiao but never in a game this big.

"This (Cone) is a very brilliant coach and will use motivation and motivational adjustments," Abanilla, who expects to again be at the San Miguel helm on Wednesday, added. "I think a coach who can motivate and bring out the best in his players will be successful in the next game."

Danton Simpson scored 19 points and shared 16 boards for the Aces, who, as Cone said, did not play their "AAA game to beat San Miguel."

"We just didn't play well enough to win tonight," Cone said. "We had the last shot but came up short. Generally, throughout the game, they outplayed us. But our guys didn't quit and that's good. We'll see if we can close it out on Wednesday."

The Beermen, after a hot start, were in the lead practically all game, but were threatened on the winning minutes after the Aces strung a 10-point deficit-to-zero within

SAME SITUATION
POSES DILEMMA
TO SIOT — Alaska
vs San Miguel

the final score after a Simpson layup threw with 1:20 left.

San Miguel actually didn't score after that Miranda jumper, but the Beermen played heads-up defense to preserve the win.

As in one stage in the eliminations when it lost two straight games, San Miguel relieved Tanquingcen and tapped Abanilla to call the shots.

Management also pulled off a similar move after San Miguel lost two straight games in the eliminations. Ato Agustin took over for at least two games only to give Tanquingcen back the reins when the NCAA season opened.

Agustin is the head coach of San Sebastian, the collegiate league's defending champion, and NCAA rules prohibit PBA head coaches from calling the shots for any team in the league.

Alaska, whose last title came in the same tournament four seasons ago with Jeseil Ellis, trailed by as many as nine points early as Dondon Hontiveros, not a big factor for the Beermen in the first four games of the series, knotted it eight points in the first period.

Hontiveros came into last night's game averaging just 3.5 points in the first four games.

After the Aces had missed a 22-28 deficit early in the second quarter with Hontiveros and Simpson on the bench, the Beermen came back and opened up the same margin, 46-37, after Gary Ervasmus free throws with under three minutes left.

The ball ended with the Beermen shining on an 11-point lead, a factor considering how tight the series has been played. San Miguel's paper 2 wins, 96-80, were the most lopsided in the series—all of them Alaska victories—have all gone down the wire.

Meanwhile, Simon will soon start the substitution process to name the coach that will take over from Ryan Gregorio next season.

Gregorio left the squad for new name Mendoza really has needs and Petron, the new name of B-Meg Derby Ace, said that it hopes to come up with a new man in the helm by the end of this week.

"We have 10 assistant coaches in our (San Miguel) organization," said team governor Ferdie Pascual noting the ballclub brass of last night's game.

The scores

SAN MIGUEL 98—Washington 18, Freeman 18, Ildefo 13, Miranda 12, Ambrosio 7, Mallari 7, Reavis 5, Cabagnot 2, Ross 2, Mercado 2, Yeo 0.

ALASKA 94—Simpson 19, De Ocampo 13, Baguio 9, Jones 12, Arboleda 10, Hontiveros 7, Dela Cruz 6, Custodio 5, Bowman 5, Cawaling 4, Quinahan 0, Ilagan 0.

Quarters: 26-25, 50-50, 71-65, 98-94

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Canaynan, Catbalogan City

INVITATION TO BID

August 11, 2010

This **SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I)** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

1. Supply of labor for the construction of its expansion projects.
2. Supply and delivery of the various electrical hardwares and equipment for line construction, operation and maintenance including Poles (Steel and Concrete)

Eligible bidders can obtain said documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred (Php 3,500.00) Pesos in the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Monday-Friday)

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Canaynan, Catbalogan City

Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the latest Company Profile to be eligible for bidding.

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 PM on August 24, 2010 at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM on August 25, 2010 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or bidder's representative at the address above at 11:00 AM on August 25, 2010.

The Bids and Awards Committee

(159) – August 16, 17 & 18, 2010

SAN MIGUEL BEER forward Jay Washington (ballonges in the heart) of the Alaska defense and gets blocked by Yeng dela Cruz (left). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY and STAR CITY
PASKONG PINOY
invite the best choirs from all over the Philippines to celebrate
by joining the
MBC NATIONAL CHORAL COMPETITION
DEC 6-10, 2010
STAR THEATER
with over
P100,000
at stake for the grand prize winners in the Children's Choir Division & Open Category

Auditions
August 24
Hot Pot Multi-Purpose Room, Cauayan, Isabela
August 26
Northern Christian College, Laoag, Ilocos Norte
August 28
Skyrise Hotel, Baguio City
September 11
Pacific Mall Events Theater, Lucena City
September 25
Naga Colleges, Naga City
October 23 & 24
Star Theater, Pasay City

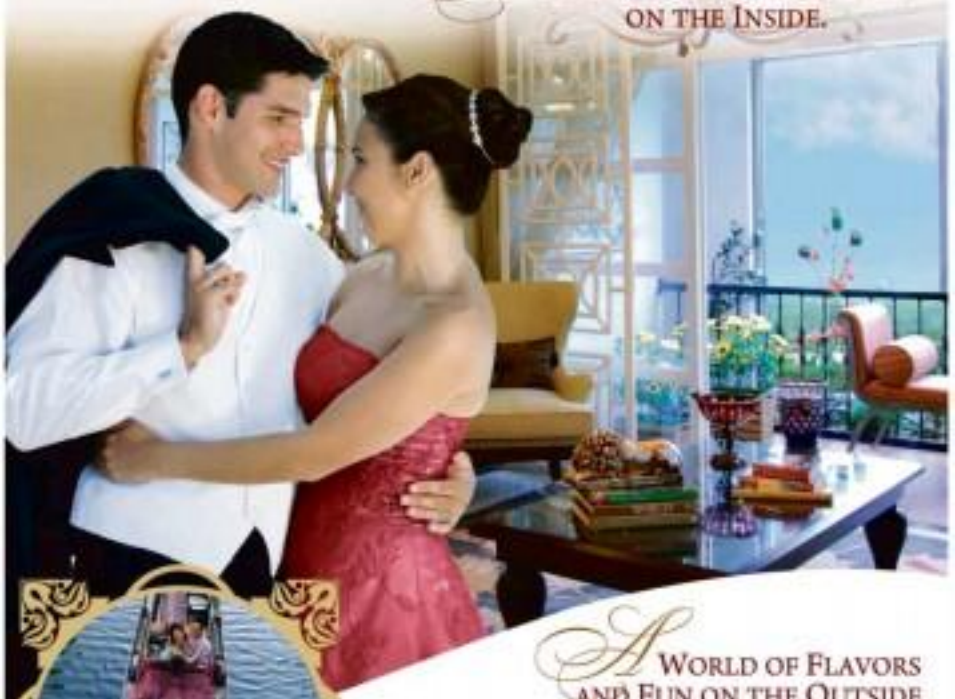
Regional Finals
October 7
Activity Center, SM Iloilo
October 9
Marcelo Fernan Press Center, Cebu City
October 15
Limketkai Mall Atrium, Cagayan de Oro

for contest mechanics, venue details, and other information, contact
0922.859.0521 (Cauayan) • 0915.406.5800 (Laoag) • 0927.223.3335 (Baguio) • 0916.743.6757 (Lucena) • 054.696.7538 (Naga)
0917.627.3018 (Cebu) • 0918.507.0289 (Iloilo) • 0917.794.0527 (Cagayan de Oro) • 8910.414.1663 (Mega-Manila)
email: starcega@mbcradio.net • http://www.manilabroadcasting.multiply.com

THE VENICE

LUXURY RESIDENCES
AT MCKINLEY HILL
Near Forbes Park

A CARING, SOOTHING RETREAT ON THE INSIDE.



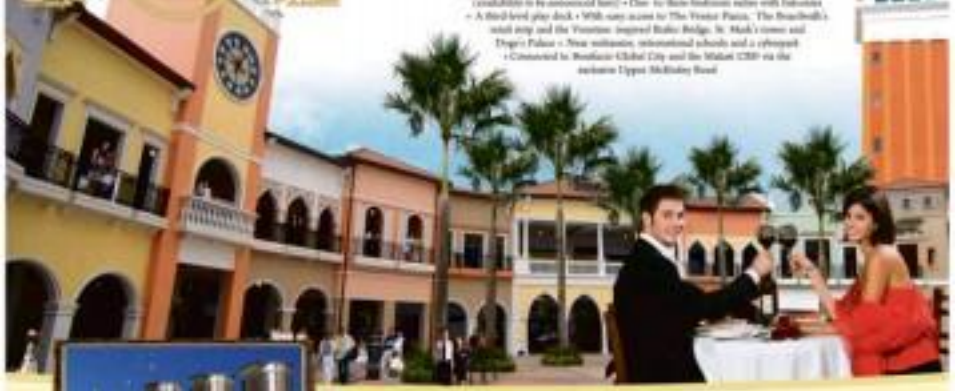
A WORLD OF FLAVORS AND FUN ON THE OUTSIDE.

At The Venice at McKinley Hill, you're part of a world so extraordinary, your experiences are tranquil one moment — and thrilling the next. Inside your home with its breathtaking views, bask in absolute luxury. Here, the mood is so relaxing, so inviting, time just slows to a crawl. And nearby, a Grand Canal offers romantic gondola rides, as the rest of the city simply fades away. When you're ready to step up the pace of your day, all you need to do is step outside. Blending exceptional dining choices with exciting leisure attractions, The Venice Piazza, now open, keeps you on your feet — and the good times rolling.

Indulge your passion for all the good things in life. The Venice at McKinley Hill.

Live life to the lyft in a Venetian-style setting:

- Seven-lovin' community inspired by Italy's famous romantic city, Venice
- Overlooking the first-ever, man-made Grand Canal offering authentic gondola rides (availability to be announced later)
- One- to three-bedroom suites with balconies
- A third-level play deck • With easy access to The Venice Piazza. The Boardwalk's retail strip and the Venetian inspired Rialto Bridge, St. Mark's tower and Doge's Palace — Nine multinational, international schools and a cybertpark
- Connected to Bonifacio Global City and the Makati CBD via the exclusive Upper McKinley Road



NOW OPEN AT THE VENICE PIAZZA:

Blackwood Bistro • Cacio e Pepe • Dencio's • Figaro • Front Magic Lounge • Hero's • Ike • KFC • Kuni • Little Sole • McDonald's • Mr. Bar • My Thai • Old Vine • Pho Hoa • Red Crab • Reyes Barbecue • Sizzling Pepper Steak • Sol Gelato • Starbucks • Sweet Pea by Chef Theodel Co • The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Tokyo Café • Yo Sushi

Visit us at the McKinley Hill Information Center,
Upper McKinley Road corner Florence Way, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

Tels: 815-1888 • 816-2768 • 816-3517

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lllanday
Mobile Alert: Text REG INQUIRER to 4483 | Website: www.inquirer.net/metro | E-mail: ar_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/homepage/cybermessage to 4483

DID YOU KNOW

DURING the first months of her term, the late President Corazon Aquino held office at the Cojuangco Building in Makati and lived in Quezon City. —Cyril Jocelyn Aquino Manzanza

West Tower residents want to be home for Christmas

By Tina G. Santos

"WILL WE be able to spend Christmas at home?"

"We feel very homesick."

These sentiments were uttered by people who were living inversion.

Ruby Chuanzon said those were uttered to her by friends who, like her and her family, were forced last month to move out of West Tower condominium in Bangkal, Makati City, following an oil leak in the basement.

The head of the condominium's housekeeping committee, Chuanzon was in charge of organizing potluck parties for residents every Christmas.

"Not everyone participates during parties. But since this problem is over and we hold a Christmas party this year, I'm sure everybody will be there," she said.

Chuanzon told the Inquirer that if there was anything positive that came out of the oil leak, it was the fact that it strengthened their faith and drew all the unit owners closer to one another.

"We've all agreed to be one in fighting and resolving the problem," she said as she added, "I believe that God is Almighty and that He will do a miracle to resolve all of these."

West Tower was developed by Filinvest Realty Sales Assistance Inc. It is now managed by West Tower Condominium Corp., which is composed of the unit owners themselves, according to Chuanzon's husband, Marcial.

Resentful

Like the rest of the condominium members, Marcial said he literally felt resentful as the trouble that befell him and his family.

"But everyone seems to be calm now," he said.

For the past days, the residents have been taking steps to trace the source of the oil leak as their building which was first detected on July 12. But first, they have to siphon off the floodwater that has accumulated in the basement, a task that the condominium administrator had abandoned, leaving the unit owners to fend for themselves.

City Engineer Nelson Morales gave the residents 10 more days to complete the task, a deadline that ends today. He said it was the city government's way of helping out the residents.

The first deadline given by the city government was July 28.

When the management of West Tower asked for an extension, it was given until Aug. 8 to clear the basement so that the officials and experts could determine the source of the oil leak which had prompted the city government to order the evacuation of residents.

Morales earlier warned that if the residents had no more the third and final deadline, the city government would be left with no choice but to revoke the condominium's occupancy and building permits.

"We're now doing the best we can to address the problems and we've thankful that the city government as well as other agencies have been helping us," Marcial said. "This is not just about us unit owners, the

WEST, A16

4 hurt as fire hits apartment

By DJ Yap

A 30-MINUTE fire razed an apartment in Manila yesterday morning, leaving four of the occupants hurt and destroying some P300,000 worth of property, authorities said.

The blaze struck the second floor of the two-story apartment owned by Myla Cayco at 1112 Indiana St., Pandacan, at 2:19 a.m., according to a report by arson investigator SPO2 Emmanuel Gaspar.

Gaspar said the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

Reaching the third alarm, the fire was put out at 2:51 a.m. At press time, the police were still trying to identify the injured.

INFINIA
LIVE BORDERLESS™

DISCOVER THE POWER OF 3D IN A FULL LED SLIM TV

LG LX9500's Full LED technology delivers pictures with striking brightness and deeper contrasts enriched by TruMotion 480Hz that removes motion or picture blur. LX9500 pushes three-dimensional viewing to its furthest by being one of the slimmest and most elegant available in the market.

With LG, Full LED 3D technology has finally found its place in the homes of the consumers.

www.lg.com/ph

LG
Life's Good

LX9500

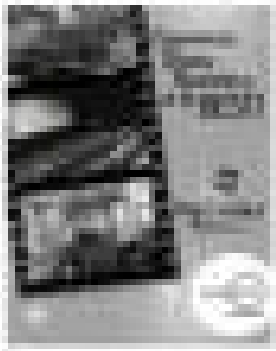
FULL LED
TruMotion 480Hz

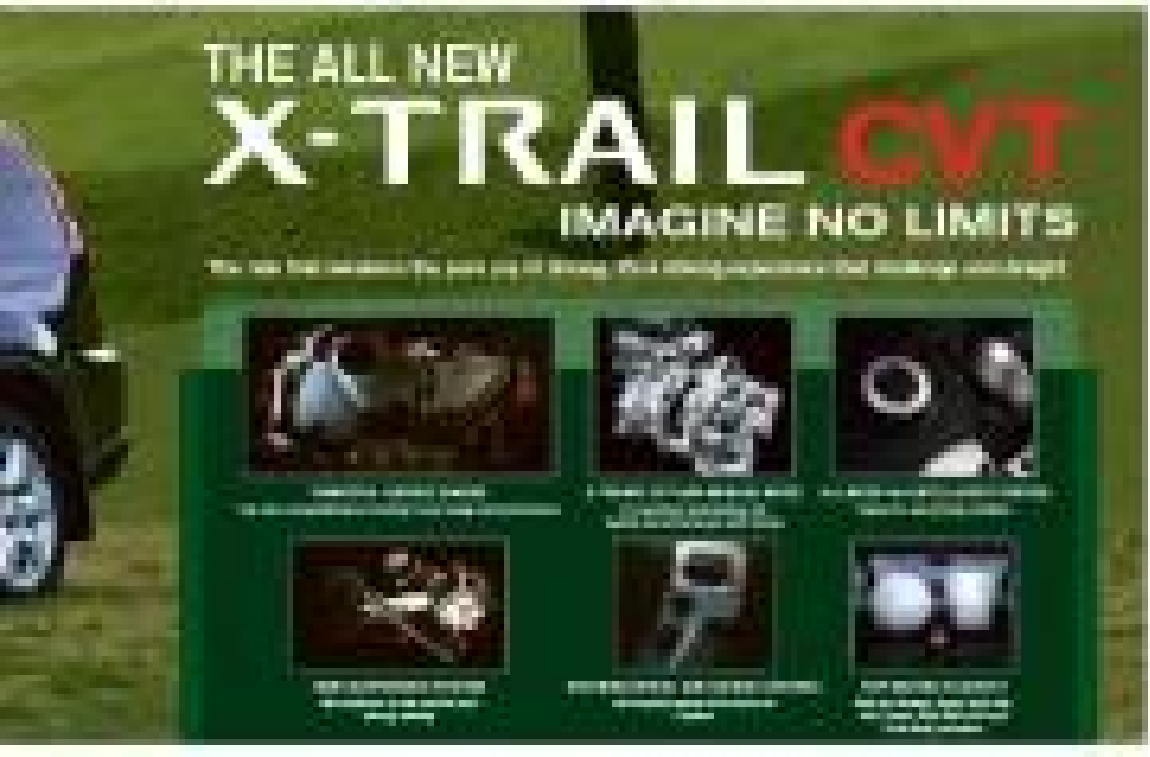
LG Electronics Philippines Inc.
15/F Legaspi St., Washington, Pasig City
Customer Information Center

West Tower residents want to be home...

In US, online 'sextortion' of teens on the rise

German hitched ride with suicide victim





The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Gloco

Obama says mosque speech no endorsement

PANAMA CITY, Florida—Faced with withering Republican criticism of his defense of the right of Muslims to build a community center and mosque near Ground Zero, President Barack Obama quickly recalibrated his remarks on Saturday, a sign that he has waded into even more treacherous political waters than the White House had at first realized.

In brief comments during a family trip to the Gulf of Mexico, Obama said he was not endorsing the New York project, but simply trying to uphold the broader principle that government should "treat everybody equally" regardless of religion.

"I was not commenting, and I will not comment, on the wisdom of making the decision to put a mosque there," Obama said. "I was commenting very specifically on the right people have that, under lands to use building. That's what our country is about."

But Obama's attempt to clarify his remarks, less than 24 hours after his initial comments at a White House iftar, a Ramadan dinner, drew a pushback that President even deeper into the thorny debate about Islam, national identity and what it means to be an American—a move that is riskier for him than for his predecessors.

From the moment he took the oath of office using his entire name, Barack Hussein Obama, as he swore to protect and defend the Constitution, Obama has personified the hopes of many Americans about tolerance and inclusion. He has devoted himself to reaching out to the Muslim world, vowing, as he did in Cairo last year, "a new beginning."

But his "new beginning" has aroused nervousness in some, especially those who disagree with his counterterrorism policies, or those more comfortable with a vision of America as a white and largely Christian nation, and not the pluralistic melting pot Obama represents.

The debate over the proposed Islamic center in Manhattan is by intensified on Saturday in the conservative blogosphere in tap with criticism of Obama, and leading Republicans—including Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, Rep. John A. Boehner, the House minority leader, and Rep. Peter T. King of New York—forcefully rejected the President's stance.

Gingrich accused the President of "pandering to radical Islam." Boehner said the decision to build a mosque so close to Ground Zero was "deeply wrong, as is the President's decision to endorse it." King flatly said the President "is wrong," adding that Obama had "caved to political correctness."

Indeed, the criticism was so intense that the White House ultimately issued an elaboration on the President's clarification, insisting that the President was "not backing off in any way" from the comments he made Friday night.

"As a citizen, and as President," Obama said then, "I believe that Muslims have the same right to practice their religion as everyone else in this country. And that includes the right to build a place of worship and a community center on private property in lower Manhattan, in accordance with local laws and ordinances."

The local laws of the mosque and the under issues of haters and religious bonchers are just part of a decisive editorial and political debate that is percolating in various forms during this hotly contested election season. On Capitol Hill, for instance, some Republican advocates researching the Constitution to ban Cabinet from no illegal immigrants from becoming citizens—a move the President discouraged.

"I think it's very important, as difficult as some of these issues are, that we stay focused on who we are as a people and what our values are all about," the President said last on Saturday.

Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, often held around Ramadan celebrations and frequently took pains to draw a distinction between al-Qaida and Islam, as Obama did Friday night. But Obama, unlike Bush, has been accused of being a closet Muslim. (he is Christian) and faced attacks from the right that he is soft on terrorism. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Barack, Sasha swim in Gulf in act of reassurance

PANAMA CITY, Florida—US President Barack Obama and his daughter have taken a dip in the Gulf of Mexico in an attempt to reassure Americans that, despite a massive oil spill, its waters remain safe for tourists. The President, first Lady Michelle Obama, and their younger daughter, Sasha, traveled to this Florida panhandle city to talk to local officials and business leaders, and highlight the region's tourist attractions. "Dr is no longer flowing into the Gulf," said Obama, speaking at a regional US Coast Guard headquarters. "But it's here to tell you that our job is not finished, and we are not going anywhere until it is." AFP

UN chief arrives in Pakistan as crisis worsens

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon arrived in flood-ravaged Pakistan on Sunday to boost relief efforts as the 20 million people made homeless grew increasingly desperate. Survivors fought over food being handed out from a relief vehicle down to the town of Sindh, ripping at each other's clothes, and causing such chaos that the distribution had to be discontinued, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene. "The impatience of the people has deteriorated as the little food that had come," said Shaukat Ali, one of the flood victims waiting for food. AP

Fires still threaten Russia nuke site; smog returns

MOSCOW—Russia on Sunday reported success in extinguishing fires burning close to the main nuclear research center but in Moscow shifting winds brought the acrid smell of smog back to the capital. Amid the worst ever heat wave in its history, Russia has for days battled to cut back hundreds of blazes across the country, including flames in southern reserve near its top nuclear research center in Sarov, a town still closed to foreigners as in Soviet times. The worst nuclear center bushes into the woods in central Russia straddles two regions—the Nizhny Novgorod and Mordovia regions—and the emergency ministry said on Sunday the number of fires in both regions had been reduced. AFP

8 dead as race car plows into California crowd

LUCERNE VALLEY, California—A vehicle plowed into a crowd at a popular off-road race in the southern California desert on Saturday night, killing eight people and leaving 12 wounded, authorities said. The accident happened shortly before 8 p.m. at the California 300 race, said San Bernardino County sheriff's spokesperson Cindy Backman. Backman said 12 people were injured, several seriously. The race was held on Soggy Dry Lake Bed near the city of Lucerne Valley in the Mojave Desert, 160 kilometers northeast of Los Angeles. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Tams,** Falcons go through wringers /A30

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ **Watney** seizes 3-stroke lead /A32

THE ALL-NEW CHEVY CRUZE
DRIVE CRUZE DP STARTS AT P88,000*
THE CHEVY THAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS HERE. For more info, visit: www.iwatchcruze.ph
CHEVROLET

Nietes retains WBO title

Outlasts Mexican minimumweight foe in tough defense

DONNIE NIETES retained his World Boxing Organization minimumweight title by hammering out a tough unanimous decision victory over Mario Rodriguez in the trailblazer Isolo Estrada Mendoza stadium in Guerrero, Hualco, Mexico.

NIETES: Third time

Nietes, nicknamed "Bad" for the pet snake he carries with him, re-fights back home, found himself in trouble in the ninth round as the Mexican known as "Dragonsito" (Little Dragon) went in non-stop mood.

According to a report by Philboxing, Judge Alejandro Lopez of Mexico City scored the bout 120-110, Levi Martinez of New Mexico had it 119-109 while Thomas Nardone of Florida had it 116-112, all for the Filipino champ.

Gasping for air in a sweaty corner that lacked ventilation, Nietes dug deep into his reserve from the ninth round onward to nail Rodriguez.

Rodriguez's corner kept the boxer and his boisterous muscle rally exuberant fan.

The Mexican also had Nietes in trouble in the 10th, opening a cut over the Filipino's eye, but Rodriguez simply ran out of steam to swing the result in his favor.

Nietes (27-1-3, 15 KOs) built an early lead by peppering Rodriguez (30-6-3, 7 KOs) through eight rounds.

Nietes, who bloodied Rodriguez's nose in an excellent performance in the eighth round, needs a little footwork for good measure. The Bacolod native became the first Filipino to defend his title three times in Mexico. Francis TJ. Ochoa and Bong Serquiña, PhilBoxing

MONTERO
CAR ACCESSORIES
SPORTS SERIES

CENTRO
HELPING MOVE PEOPLE, CARGO, COMMERCE
The 2nd Philippine International Motor Show
Aug. 19-22, 2010 • 10 AM - 9 PM
World Trade Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila
CENTRO

SuperFerry
Happy Tripid!
Ngayon, mas marami nang makakatripid sa mga dagdag na biyahe ng SuperFerry!
• Manila to Cebu and back: 5 trips/week
• Manila to Cagayan de Oro and back: 4 trips/week
• Manila to Bacolod and back: 3 trips/week
• Manila to Iloilo and back: 3 trips/week
At marami pang iba ang schedules!
Tawag na sa 528-7000!
www.SuperFerry.com.ph

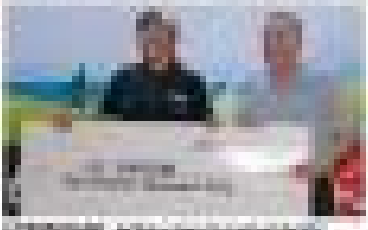
Lebanon barely slips past RP 5

Tams, Falcons go through wringers

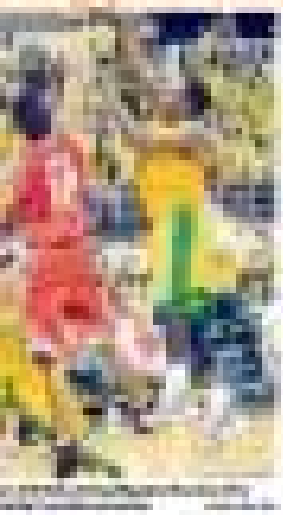
SSC-R Baycats, Icons clobber

Junior Altas eye 6th win vs CSB Greenies

Bottom 4 in bo-hum NC



NISSAN'S BEST OFFER BLAS



YOUTH OLYMPICS

Patrombon, Barbosa early casualties

Adamson ties SSC-Excelroof

Lady Falcons grip Lady Stags in S; NU prevails

FEU tossers snag beach volley crown

Naasci foes

A tiffs today

on emerging power in UAAP caging

President invited to Carpenzano chess inaugurals

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

A Powerful First Impression
You know you want one. Choose the plan that suits your budget!
LOW DOWNPAYMENT ₱100,000 Downpayment
LOW MONTHLY ₱11,809 monthly
LOW MONTHLY & LOW DOWNPAYMENT COMBINATION ₱140,000 Downpayment & ₱24,051 Monthly, 60 months to pay
MITSUBISHI LANCER EX GT-A
Engage Your Passion
For more details, visit your nearest Mitsubishi Motors dealer now!

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Watney seizes 3-stroke lead

NICK WATNEY is all pumped up on the 18th green. Watney zoomed to the top of the leaderboard, taking a three-shot edge going into the final round of the PGA Championship. AP

SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN—American Nick Watney took over the lead of the US PGA Championship on Saturday, taking a three-shot advantage into the final round, ahead of Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy in a strong showing by golf's next generation.

Watney, who had to scramble for a bogey on the 18th hole to finish with a 6-under 66, scored 204 or -12 total compared with some of the players chasing him.

Australian Johnson is 26, seasoned slightly by his memorable meltdown at Pebble Beach in the US Open. He found enough accuracy to go with his awesome power for a 67 to reach his very first final group in a major for the second time this year. Johnson was tied with Mellroy, the 21-year-old from Northern Ireland who also had a 67 and looks poised to deliver early on his promise of his sport's next big star.

None of the top six on the leaderboard has ever won a major.

The last time the top six contenders were this green in the final major of the year was in 1992.

Woods 13 down

As for Tiger Woods? His only hope is to shoot his best round of his strange season on Sunday and try to earn a Hyder Cup berth.

Woods scrambled brilliantly in the morning to finish off his second round with a 70 to get within five shots, but couldn't capitalize on wrong tee play, missing birdies on the opening two holes and finishing with a 72 on a day when the average score was 71.16 with conditions and relatively calm.

Woods wound up 10 shots behind. He likely will need to finish at least in seventh place alone to make the Ryder Cup team.

"I just want to play a good round and see where that puts me," Woods said.

Watney won at 13-under 203, in the lead at a major for the first time in his career after one round.

Chinese surprise

The only player among the top six not in his 20s was the biggest surprise of all—Liang Wenchong, a 5-foot-6 China native who set the course record at Whistling Straits with a 64. He didn't start playing the game until he was 15.

Some of those guys already were dreaming of winning majors at that age.

Liang was a 207 golfing with 22-year-old Aaron Baddeley of Australia, who had a 66, and 23-year-old Martin Kaymer of Germany who has top 10s in the last two majors. Kaymer had a 67.

"There's some really good players that haven't won a major," Watney said. "And all the guys that have, as one point they hadn't won, either. So you've got to start somewhere. And hopefully, tomorrow will be my day."

Golf appears to be rewarding those may. Five of the past six major champions had never won one before, the exception being Phil Mickelson this year at the Masters.

To see so much inexperience at the top is not as surprising to a point in which 27-year-old Louis Oosthuizen won the Dutch Open at St. Andrews, and 30-year-old Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland won at Pebble Beach. AP

A-Rod hits 3 homers, Yankees triumph

KANSAS CITY—Alex Rodriguez hit three home runs in a game for the fourth time in his career, pacing an 11-2 home opener rout over the New York Yankees. Kansas City, 8-3, in Major League Baseball action Saturday.

Rodriguez drove in five runs, taking over the major league RBI lead with 97. He pulled ou three different pitches in his deep drives.

After striking out on three pitches from Jesse O'Sullivan in his previous at-bat, Rodriguez started the sixth inning with a 412-foot shot against the Royals starter.

Rodriguez added a two-run drive off Brandon Tassin in the seventh that earned 11th loss and put the Yankees on top 6-2.

A third connected in the ninth against Greg Holland for the most impressive drive, a 435-foot shot that landed in the water fountains.

Rodriguez has 19 home runs this season and 604 lifetime. It was the 39th multi-homer game of his 16-year career.

New York's Phil Hughes (14-8) went 5 1-3 innings for the victory.

Several Yankees hit fly balls near the warning track against O'Sullivan (1-4) before they finally broke through in the sixth with three consecutive singles.

In Arlington, Texas, Jon Lester pitched eight scoreless innings as the Boston Red Sox stopped the American League West-leading Texas Rangers, 3-1, on Saturday.

Once uncanny night, Lester (13-7) was sharp, striking out five and walking none.

Texas' Josh Hamilton homered with one out in the ninth and wound 2 for 4, raising his major league-high average to .364. AP

SAVE YOUR HAIR
STOP hairloss progression

Every day as you see your visible scalp, you ask yourself: Why am I losing my hair while others don't? What could be causing it? Why are there more and more hair strands on my pillow and in the shower drain? There's no denying – you can be one of the many millions who are suffering from hairloss. Studies show that most women who are suffering from hairloss also suffer from depression, anxiety and stress.

Stop suffering in silence. SAVE your hair. ACT now! GO to Svenson – the leading scalp and hairloss center in the Philippines.

EXCESSIVE FALLING HAIR
Research shows that stress, child birth, poor diet, menopause or certain body disorders can shift countless growing hairs to their resting phase. This can cause hairs to shed.
The Solution
Ultra Lush Hairwise – quickly controls and stops hair fall as it helps restore hair's original fullness, volume and softness.

LIMP, THINNING HAIR
It's true, like men, women can also inherit hairloss. Dihydrotestosterone (DHT) is the main cause of Androgenetic Alopecia or female pattern hairloss. DHT can actually block hair growth that can result to diffuse thinning hair.
The Solutions
Total Hair Revitalization Program – inhibits DHT, stops the thinning and promotes hair production for thicker, healthier hair.

DANDRUFF
Non-stop scalp scratching or flaking? Have falling hair? Dandruff is not only a visibly embarrassing problem. It can also cause hairloss. When your scalp irritations are combined with dirt, shampoo chemicals or excess sebum, they can block the hair follicles that can affect hair growth.
The Solution
Scalp Corrective Treatments – thoroughly eliminate flakes, nourish the scalp and recover its healthy condition for healthier hair growth.

Get thicker, healthier hair before it's too late. Call Svenson now at 892-HAIR (4247) / 234-0851 Cebu for a FREE private consultation today.

Not all players are 'boys' or 'girls'

ONE GAME AT A TIME
Sev Sarmenta

MAY OPEN, a Filipino coach will make a postgame comment like these: "Our boys did a tremendous job trying to catch up in the last quarter," or "our girls were a step late in the game."

Nothing really politically incorrect, wrong, or harmful about this, it seems. Stemming perhaps from the fact that a coach is no older person, the players are usually referred to as "boys" or "girls."

To some, it is even a term of endearment that screams to how our father-son relationships in familial terms. The translation comes loudly from "mga bata" (our kids) but to quite odd others used to refer to men's workers or bodyguards.

You've heard it, of course, in local movies: "Boss, mga bata!" (Let's go, guys), says a frightened boss leading a round-up of bad guys. It's no match a pair of our lingo that nobody seems to mind.

My commentator students will count the decision as another one of my annoying prohibitions who we are as religious.

For instance, I find the expression "boys-boys-boys" (your indulgence, please) a misleading one. This was so well noticed about a month ago here in the houses. I find old men talking loudly into cell phones inside the MRT or coffee shops a power shower, or women stopping at the top of the escalator a queer call: babe. That's just me.

But using "boys" or "girls" can be outright awkward when referring to a college senior basketball or volleyball team, and more so, a professional squad. Time and again TV roundtable reporters say that "coach so-and-so told his boys" to do this or that.

It seems an easy phrase to use since it does look like a coach is admonishing a bunch of kids when he or she reads the riot act to the huddle or the locker room.

I read the books of successful coaches like Dean Smith, Mark Pfeles, Jim Calhoun, Neil Rosebach and Phil Jackson. They never call their players "my boys" because players want to be treated as adults, rather than as schoolboys.

This helps in teaching not only basketball but responsibility as well because a person of authority is relating to a player as an adult.

Maybe our athletes will mature a little faster and perform better if coaches refer to their squad as "our team," "our players" or "our athletes."

In turn, those who parrot the sidelines will also report to the audience down-reach-es and "their teams and players."

The only ones we will probably allow to continue using these names will be the BF Nite Boys and Mr. Girls because these have been with the national softball circus' business communal.

Calling the cyclists the "boys of summer" will probably have to stay as well because it's a sweetest poetic description.

But not using this phrase loosely could also hasten the end of the "boys-boys" (prolonged) outrage in some of our sports.

Maybe some poetic rebels an athlete of state records and we immediately claim ownership. "Remember you?" (That's my kid), we say.

In boxing, though, it might be just a little harder to eliminate the phrase. A fighter is often talked about as the "hero" of a certain campaign, winner or former champion. When you're starting out, it was help get fights and reasonable purse money.

But it wouldn't hurt to make extra changes there, too. A fighter ages and matures faster with every fight. As in war, boys become men very quickly in the square ring.

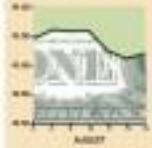
Editor Raul G. Manuelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

Ecozone exports surged 40% in 1st half

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 13, 2010
45.31



STOCK MARKET
Aug. 13, 2010
▼13.58

Dull trading seen this week

THE PETROLEUM industry's aversion across global markets may set the tone for another lackluster trading week at the local stock exchange, analysts said.

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index retreated from 31-month highs and fell 1.33 percent to 2,469.32

Total jobs generated in 6 months hit 697,187

By Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESSES REGISTERED with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority recorded a 39.5-percent increase in exports in the first half to $20.1 billion from $14.4 billion in the same period last year.

Shipments from firms situated in the hubs of exports in the first semester came from private economic zones, which accounted for $14 billion of the total. That represented a 41.2-percent increase from the previous year's $9.9 billion.

Public economic enterprises contributed another $6 billion in January-June exports, up 44.1 percent from the $2.8 billion posted in the same period a year ago.

Rounding up Peza's export revenue contributors in the first six months were information technology parks and buildings, which accounted for $2 billion of overall exports, a 21.7-percent improvement from last year's $1.7 billion.

In terms of employment, private companies also generated the most jobs in the first half at 322,125 jobs, 22.7 percent more than the 262,582 jobs created in the same period in 2009.

37 parks and buildings added another 249,529 to the half-job generation, up 30.3 percent from the previous year's 191,519 jobs.

While bringing up the rear, public economic still provided

Gov't debt seen breaching ₱5-T mark in 2011

By Reuva V. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt stock is expected to breach the ₱5-trillion mark by the end of 2011 as the Aquino administration aims at an average deficit of ₱221 billion over the next six years.

Documents from the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordinating Committee showed that in the first full year in control of the nation's coffers, the new team of economic managers would have pushed the country's outstanding debt to ₱5.01 trillion, up 6.1 percent from the expected ₱4.74 trillion by end-2010.

Taking into account new borrowings and debt payments for 2011, the figures mean that the Aquino administration would have added ₱393 billion to the debt stock.

Based on the DBCC projections, Malacañang's programs would add some ₱1.34 trillion to the debt stock through to 2016 or an average of ₱227 billion a year.

By 2016, the government's outstanding debt would have crossed the ₱6-trillion mark at

A decade of enabling infrastructure:

ePLDT celebrates 10 years

The role of Information Technology has never been more significant than it is today, with organizations from diverse industries recognizing its immeasurable potentials. And in the Philippines, IT has become an integral part in building businesses, with ePLDT leading the way in bringing the latest IT solutions that boost operational efficiency and overall business growth.

Making IT more accessible and helping organizations reap its benefits has always been one of the driving factors for the founding of ePLDT. Established in 2000 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), ePLDT has become a major proponent of IT outsourcing in the country with a consistently expanding portfolio of services that answers the growing needs of the local and global markets.

After ten years in the industry, ePLDT still remains true to its vision of offering cutting-edge IT solutions. Throughout the decade, ePLDT's clientele has grown to include large-scale enterprises, small and medium businesses, government agencies and financial institutions, and even the educational sector. Its product catalogue has also evolved to meet the changing needs of its clients, providing them with services that can be mixed and matched to serve the most demanding requirements and ensure operational synergy.

ePLDT's core business is the VITRO Data Center, the first purpose-built Class 'A' Internet Data Center in the country that was designed to meet the requirements of carrier-neutral and PLDT infrastructure solutions. ePLDT leverages on VITRO's robust infrastructure and skilled support engineers to offer outsourced IT services that include Co-location, Server Hosting, Application Delivery, Disaster Recovery, Network Administration and Data Security Management. Apart from the services offered through VITRO, ePLDT also provides managed IT services and is one of the first Application Service Providers for hosted, IP-based content solutions in the country.

Set to work in improving businesses through information technology, ePLDT has received acknowledgement from prestigious international organizations. The company was recently named as the first recipient of the International Star for Leadership in Quality in the Gold category, a prestigious honor bestowed to companies that demonstrated excellence in leadership in their respective industries as seen in increased market share and sustainability. The award was given by Business Initiative Directions, the leading private organization focused on promoting quality in leading companies across the globe.

ePLDT was also the recipient of the 2009 Philippines Frost & Sullivan Market Leadership Award in the Data Center Services Market. This recognition was given based on research conducted by globally renowned growth partnership company Frost & Sullivan.

ePLDT also ensures that its facilities and services are in par with international standards. With its third certification for the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System and second certification for the ISO 27001:2005 Information Security Management System standards, ePLDT's VITRO assures clients that it consistently complies with global operations standards and specifications. VITRO is also accredited by the Philippine Export Zone Authority.

ePLDT has also been able to expand its IT reach thanks to the various subsidiaries it has built or acquired throughout the years, all contributing strong product and service lines to the ePLDT Group portfolio.

ePLDT Ventus, the company's call center business, was established in 2003 with the goal of further enhancing the Philippines' reputation as an outsourcing destination. From its first 50-seat contact center where Ventus provides high value voice services for the US market, the company now has eight contact center locations in Luzon and Visayas, all providing high quality customer service support to clients from a range of industries.

Acquired by ePLDT in 2008, SIS Global Solutions is one of the world's most comprehensive BPO companies. SIS offers a full roster of high quality, innovative, knowledge process outsourcing and customer interaction services for Fortune 500 companies, and has clients in expertise in the Customer Interaction, Healthcare, Legal, and Publishing markets.

Digital Paradise or Diexpix, which provides shared computer use and internet access to the retail market, was acquired by ePLDT in 2002. Now with 189 branches across the country, Nexpix has expanded its service line to include digital printing; the company has also pioneered in providing new media advertising for internet cafés nationwide. Nexpix also functions as more than an internet cafe; various branches are being used as testing and training sites for various IT solutions.

ePDS was a joint venture of ePLDT and Singapore-based companies DataBuz and Singtel, the biggest print bureau and postal service bureau in Asia, respectively incorporated in 2003. ePDS became a one-stop-shop for clients' billprinting, mail processing and delivery requirements. The company's affiliation with ePLDT helped it steadily grow throughout the years; today, ePDS has a big and growing client base and has added document and check imaging, mail archival and retrieval systems to its service line.

ePlus Intelligent Network, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of ePLDT, offers outsourced IT services that complement companies' existing IT infrastructure, and help them manage their IT requirements and maximize IT investments. ePlus also delivers other IT solutions through its subsidiary Infocom Technologies, Inc., a network service provider catering to large corporations and the SME market.

Beyond-the, another ePLDT subsidiary provides business solutions, consultancy and support services to a wide range of organizations in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia – from some of the largest corporations in the region to the most progressive upstarts across multiple industries. Those business software applications use technology from global leaders like SAP and Microsoft. Beyondthe also provides back-end service and subscription based cloud models fitted for large enterprises and small and medium businesses.

ePLDT's other subsidiaries include online game publisher Level Up, technology gaming firm Philweb, and Certificate Authority and Strategic affiliate My Secure Sign, Inc.,

With innovative and customized solutions, delivered by a team of competent professionals,

> *After ten years in the industry, ePLDT still remains true to its vision of offering cutting-edge IT solutions. Throughout the decade, ePLDT's clientele has grown to include large-scale enterprises, small and medium businesses, government agencies and financial institutions, and even the educational sector. Its product catalogue has also evolved to meet the changing needs of its clients, providing them with services that can be mixed and matched to serve the most demanding requirements and ensure operational synergy.*

New leader means broader landscape for ePLDT

By Michelle Veloso

There is a new pair of eyes that are constantly on guard for bigger opportunities in the ICT sphere.

As the new President and Chief Executive Officer of ePLDT, Ruth Lui comes with the highest expectations. She more than drew detailed strategic focus as a respected innovator and headliner in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry is a strong testament that the premier ICT company in the country has found a gold mine in leadership.

However, it is not without its challenges as Lui's shift from accountant to ePLDT also poses the expected changes that come with new horizons.

"Any leader who is coming in will need to assess what you have been given such. For starters, it is always important to provide continuity than to completely have a new set of programs right then and there. Many programs of ePLDT are doing well so we'll continue with those activities," Lui said.

"Coming from a slightly different industry, what I provide is a different perspective. It is not about completely changing the business, but identifying more opportunities in the existing framework," she added.

Focused on enabling infrastructure services which would drive business applications, IP-based services and multimedia content delivery, ePLDT invests on programs to drive the ICT growth in the country. It has an array of very strong assets encompassing various industries like the VITRO Data Center, which provides high-capacity connection to all major countries and cities around the globe; the ePlus Intelligent Network, Inc. which provides outsourced IT services to complement companies' existing IT infrastructure; BeyondTrade, which provides SAP and Microsoft business application solutions implementation and support for both on premise and subscription based (cloud) models; ePDS, Inc. which provides world-class customizing services such as laser printing, document imaging and integrated mail processing; and the Level Up! Games Philippines, among others.

The company's stronghold of investments now rest on the shoulders of Lui as she is set to harness the kind of leadership that made her shine in the BPO industry for many years. With ePLDT, the early days of transition have been kind to her, right in the midst of PLDT's robust reorganization. "I'm really appreciative of the team. Coming in, they embraced me. We talked about things we can do. They have to reach me their business, too. We are on the stage where we lay out that this is what's happening and this is what we have to do," she shared.

Anticipating the trends

In her planned direction for ePLDT, Lui acknowledged how the technology has evolved over the years. During the 90s, everyone praised their hopes in mobile technology as the harbinger of great change to the communication industry. It still is but it could have given the very mobility has mapped out a borderless economy.

In 2018, however, Lui sees cloud computing as potentially the next big thing in the country's ICT. As defined by Informatel.com, cloud computing is "a network virtual servers available over the Internet, a way to increase capacity or add capabilities on the fly without investing in new infrastructure, training new personnel, or licensing new software. It encompasses subscription-based or pay-per-use service that extends IT's existing capabilities." Big companies like Google, Ebay and Microsoft have been calling the technology, which provides bigger opportunities for people who want to "set up a business without having to worry about technological complexities."

"When you look at the assets of ePLDT, there's a lot of potential for cloud computing. We need to identify services that we can deliver out of the cloud. Am I gonna be a provider or a user? Companies and individuals need to identify and go through those opportunities and determine which one they would like to use," Lui shared.

Narrowing the digital divide

Among the strengths of cloud computing, according to Lui, is its ability to address the issues of digital gap. As long as there is an internet access, everything seems possible. Cloud computing will now make technology available to everybody even to those

BETH LUI, president and chief executive officer of ePLDT

who live in opposite to the flung provinces.

The technology is also believed to aid in improving the quality of education in the country to address digital ignorance. According to her, when you combine cloud and mobile technology, there is a big potential to leapfrog to newer technology that will facilitate information access on the education level.

Also, Lui expressed her optimism on the country's potential to succeed in the biggest technological adventures through Filipinos' inherent talent and skills. After all, our culture and mindset have evolved with the times. Filipino hospitality is one of the best in the world, according to Lui, and we are already expanding our strengths by adopting a more aggressive service orientation as well.

"We are now moving from a laid-back service orientation to a more proactive one, where we prioritize what we can do for our consumers. We do not only provide what our client's need, but we also anticipate what they want. And I think that bodes well for our country," Lui shared.

The need for innovation

At the end of the day, Lui's leadership is measured on her and her team's capabilities to anticipate the dynamic trends of the industry. She believed that "there will always be transformed" and the way to stay relevant is to come up with new and better products and services.

"The market has a very short attention span," Lui said. "In services, products, customer experience, organizations and companies are pressured to come out with new innovations. So if you're not coming out with one every so often, people will lose interest in you."

"When one thinks of pioneering a revolutionary idea or service, it is not enough that it is new. It also has to comprise two very important factors: it is price-competitive and it serves what it is supposed to do," she added.

However, she believes that new technologies are not the be-all and end-all of any business. While new technologies are great tools for business success, there are also other things that can be maximized to ensure successful operations. It can be likened to using cellphones to communicate with people but having the time and effort to express oneself in handwritten notes from time to time.

"Somewhere in between, you still make an effort to connect with people to find out what they are good for you. Expand your knowledge on them. But do not take everything at face. Instead, make a conscious effort to learn which has the biggest potential," she said.

With Lui leading the ePLDT pack towards new directions, the challenges await but the future seems brighter than ever. "I have mellowed down in my management style but there is always a sense of urgency in my leadership," she said. "A challenge for me is an opportunity. It is like taking on a journey. If you view it for change, growth or expansion, there's a lot of things one can do in ePLDT, it will be a collaboration between me and the current team so we can come out with new ideas and service offerings. It will not be one without the other," she said.

ePLDT continues to dominate the industry with innovative solutions that boast local flavor and global acceptance.

After ten successful years, ePLDT remains committed to blazing new trails, empowering businesses and broadening horizons through the power of information technology.

www.ePLDT.com

BUSINESS

Delay in ₱40-B capital infusion dismays BSP

Funding stipulated in agency's charter

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has expressed dismay over the budget department's decision to defer anew the government's long-overdue capital infusion of ₱40 billion, saying it needed the money to enhance the conduct of monetary policy.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said it was regretful that the capital infusion was again postponed after its details have been agreed upon by the BSP and concerned line agencies of the government, including the Department of Budget and Management and the Bureau of the Treasury.

Under the plan made last year, the Treasury was to sell bonds and use the proceeds to pay the ₱40 billion in capitalization for the BSP. The capital infusion was supposed to be done on a staggered basis, or in equal installments over a 10-year period.

The budget department and the Treasury wanted a bond sale, saying the government did not have the cash of its own to settle the ₱40 billion capitalization for the BSP.

The government should have given the BSP its capitalization as early as 1993. This was according to the charter of the BSP, which replaced the old central bank, which said the government needed to put in ₱50 billion in capital to the new central bank.

So far, however, the government has only paid ₱10 billion.

Last year, the BSP, the budget department and Treasury agreed on the details of the payment plan.

However, Guinigundo said he was informed that the new administration has decided to further delay the capital infusion, with the budget department opining that the BSP did not need the money now.

"That [perception that the BSP does not need the money] is not the issue. The issue is the need to implement the law," he said, adding that the capital infusion was requested by the New Central Bank Act.

Earlier, Guinigundo said the money, if given to the BSP, would go a long way in its conduct of monetary policy and efforts to tame growth.

He said a portion of the money could have been used to augment the BSP's resources for lending to banks, which often had to tap loan facilities of the BSP to support their own lending programs.

LIMITED PULP and Paper Co. Inc. president Henri Maluenda (left), hands over a token to Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo (center), following a discussion on trade and investments with Thailand Ambassador to the Philippines Ambassador Sinphara Na Ayudhaya (right) and a group of Thai businessmen.

misibis bay
CAMARAY ISLAND

With 180 days of summer and 360 days of all-season adventures.
Make Misibis Bay Your Luxury Island Playground.

Experience Misibis Bay for only P16,888++ per person.
This special all-in package includes roundtrip airfare and transfers, full board meals, 3 days 2 nights accommodation in a Junior Suite Deluxe room and over 30 guaranteed activities and adventures.

Promo package is subject to availability and is valid until September 30, 2010 only. Service charge of 10% and resort fee may apply.

For inquiries and reservations, visit our Manila Sales and Reservations Office at [illegible]
Tel [illegible] Fax [illegible]
Reservations email: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]

Ask about our Luxury Bay Guarantee

We change the way you look at your card...
The country's first vertical debit card
It allows you to do more than just withdrawing cash.

Do cashless shopping, bills payment and personal fund management the safe and easy way with Security Bank CashCard and CashLink Card.

Simple, Fast and Secure.
That's Security You Can Bank On.

Visit any Security Bank branch near you or call 88-7911-88.
Log on to www.securitybank.com

A Proud Member of BancNet

SECURITY BANK

BUSINESS

ACER

Gov't expects sale of FTI property in 2011

Less reliance on proceeds from privatization program

By Roneel W. Dasnigo

THE GOVERNMENT expects to put the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) property back on the auction block in 2011 although privatization officials are still trying to make a sale within the year.

Finance Undersecretary Cielito Philip Sevilla said in an interview that the 120-hectare property could account for the biggest chunk of anticipated privatization revenues next year, when the government aims at earning P6 billion.

Sevilla said that while the latest appraisal placed the value of the FTI asset at P11 billion, the government expects to earn less than that amount considering that privatization has failed in that plan.

He said other lower-valued assets would make up the privatization program next year, including holdover shares in various companies from previous privatization efforts.

"We do not expect to get the entire value of FTI upfront even if we are able to privatize next year," Sevilla said.

"We are still hoping that we can actually start the process within this year," he added. "The same parties that previously expressed interest in taking part remain interested."

Ayala Land Inc., Inst Miguel Properties Inc. and SM Investments previously signified their interest to acquire the property in Taguig City.

Sevilla said other big-ticket items that the Aquino administration lined up for privatization, including PNOC Exploration Corp.'s shares in the Malampaya natural gas project and the Subic property in Japan, have been shelved.

Along with the FTI land, these properties represented bulk of the P300-billion privatization program in 2009, which failed to progress.

The same properties were lined up again this year, but the new team of economic managers decided to review them.

This year's privatization program was subsequently scaled down to P2 billion, lining up small-ticket, incomable properties such as parcels of land in Baguio City, Makati City and Batangas.

These properties are acquainted properties under the Presidential Commission on Good Government, while others were turned over to the Privatization Management Office by Philippine National Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines.

JG Summit net income surges 115% to ₱7.75B

Increased earnings from food, real estate, airline

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEI flagship JG Summit Holdings Inc. booked its first semester net profit by 114.6 percent to ₱7.75 billion on higher earnings from core food, real estate, airline and telecoms businesses.

Property unit Robinsons Land Corp., in the nine-month period ending June, increased its net profit by 12 percent year on year to ₱5.259 billion on robust rental revenues from shopping, hotel and office properties. For the period April to June alone, the third quarter in its fiscal year that began in October, RLC's net profit softened by 6 percent year on year to ₱795.4 million.

Food unit Universal Robina Corp. posted a net income attributable to equity holders of ₱6.35 billion for the six-month ending March.

Cebu Air Inc., operator of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, increased its January-to-June net income by 33.6 percent to ₱3.09 billion as the airline grew passenger traffic as a result of additional flights this year.

Meanwhile, telecom unit Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. chalked up a net income of ₱144.6 million for the six-month period ending June announcing to P145.4 million, a turnaround from last year's net loss of ₱630 million.

The JG Summit group's core earnings showed a 188.8 percent growth for the first half to ₱11.09 billion. Group-wide cash flow based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization also grew 42.9 percent to ₱18.7 billion from a year ago.

Consolidated revenues increased 14.6 percent to ₱66.76 billion due to the strong performances of most business units, particularly the food, airline, real estate development and telecom businesses. Only the petrochemical unit showed a decline in sales by 35.9 percent to ₱1.43 billion during the period.

JG Summit Petrochemicals Corp., however, bounced to first semester net loss to ₱141.47 million from last year's net loss of ₱670.79 million partly on lower debt refinancing.

Meanwhile, equity earnings from associated companies and joint ventures fell 8.4 percent year on year to ₱1.56 billion in the first semester due to lower income recorded by Singapore-based retail chain operator United Industrial Corp. Ltd.

JG Summit's niche banking unit Robinsons Savings Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland booked a net income of ₱111.95 million during the first six months, up 20.8 percent from a year ago, on higher interest income.

In terms of sales, URC boosted its business by 11.8 percent to ₱288.72 billion for the six months ending March. Food and beverage sales targeted the decline in the packaging business. The fresh and foods segment as the commodity buys more value gain at a double-digit pace.

URC also booked a market valuation gain on financial instruments worth ₱821 million in the first half, reversing the market valuation loss of ₱1.15 billion in the same period last year. This was due to a recovery in the market values of listed and equity investments.

Metrobank posts 36% jump in profit

METROPOLITAN BANK and Trust Co. jacked up its first half net profit by 36 percent year on year to ₱4.2 billion on higher earnings from fee-based, treasury and investment activities.

For the second quarter alone, Metrobank's net income surged 43 percent to ₱1.7 billion from a year ago, the bank said in a statement.

"Our strategy to focus on businesses that add value to our customers is paying off. Our operating income is consistently improving, non-performing loans (NPLs) are down and our capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is at its highest in several years," Metrobank president Arthur Ty said.

Operating profit before loan loss provisioning grew 15 percent to ₱9.8 billion from a year ago. For the first semester, Metrobank set aside provisions for credit and impairment of ₱4.6 billion, P800 million higher than a year ago.

Net interest income stood at ₱11.1 billion, 5 percent lower than the ₱11.682 billion a year ago. But non-interest income took up the slack in interest earnings, expanding 43 percent to ₱5.3 billion on the back of higher fee-based income, among others. Trading gains, treasury and investment activities, as well as better performances by key subsidiaries.

Among its key subsidiaries are thrift bank Philippine Savings Bank and investment house First Metro Investment Corp.

Meanwhile, operating costs grew 9 percent to ₱11.7 billion, mainly driven by the 6 percent growth in manpower related expenses.

Asset quality continued to improve with a ₱4.0 billion reduction year on year in gross NPLs. As a result, the NPL ratio eased to 3.2 percent from 4.6 percent last year.

Last May, Metrobank raised $04 million primary shares, raising about ₱9 billion in fresh capital to strengthen its position in the Philippine banking industry ahead of the implementation of more stringent Basel 3 CAR requirements. With the additional capital, its core or tier 1 ratio increased to 11 percent while total CAR eased at 15.3 percent. Doris C. Dumlao

Maybank

300 THREE HUNDRED
OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED FOOD BRANDS (AND COUNTING)
ONE (1) PSE LISTED COMPANY STANDING BEHIND THEM.
ALLIANCE SELECT FOODS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
A PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANY | LOOK FOR THE ROSE (FOOD)
WWW.ALLIANCESELECTFOODS.COM

Money politics

Biz Buzz
By the shelf

THE GOVERNOR'S to-designed currency will be put into circulation later this year...possibly sometime in December to coincide with the season's gift-giving spirit—as the approvals for the new peso bills have all been obtained from the necessary parties. This included the approval of President Benigno Aquino III, but not before he made some last-minute design change suggestions. (pronounce accepted by the central bank, of course) to the new designs.

Speaking of new designs, the most notable...and maybe the most politically sensitive decisions—have to do with the design of the P500 and P1000 bills.

The new P500 bill design does away with the "bursting bayanihan" bank (and bring back the old) and replaces it with a brighter image of the national hero side by side with that of the late President Cory Aquino. The back of the will yellow bill will feature the underground river of Puerto Princesa (unique Filipino icons on the theme of the reverse side) and the blue-tinged peacock, which is native to the area.

The same controversial design, however, has to do with the P200 "chavit" bill which was introduced during the governorship of the late Rafael Buenaventura. He was to his of the P200...according to insiders). The new design will still feature President Diosdado Macapagal on the obverse side, but the image of President Jose P. Laurel on

Eton Properties net profit surges to ₱385M

STRONGER DA-LGU PARTNERSHIP
Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (second from right) has started working with new provincial administration led by Governor Rodolfo Bagiao's head security program. Alcala is flanked by (from left) Governor Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur; Antonio Uy of Compostela Valley; and Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao Del Norte.

Exec says firm on track to meet 2010 target

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON LUCKY Tan-led Eton Properties Philippines Inc. slashed up ₱385 million to first semester net income, up almost 16 times from the same period last year on higher real estate revenues.

"We are on track to achieve our target annual net income of ₱700 million," Eton president Danilo Ignacio said.

Eton, which entered the Philippine property market only three years ago, grew its total revenues by 280 percent to ₱1.9 billion on higher recognition of sales due to the ongoing construction of various residential projects.

Among the residential projects contributing revenues to the property firm are The Eton Residences Greenbelt, Eton Baypark Manila, One Archers Place, South Lake Village at Eton City, The Masters at Eton Tower Makati, Eton Residences Greenbelt, Belton Place and the Eton Emerald Lofts.

Increased rental income from Eton's completed business process outsourcing offices—Eton Cyberpad Centris and Eton Cyberpod Corinthian, and mall properties Centris Station and U-Life—also contributed to the higher earnings.

"The first half of 2010 was very good for Eton Properties. Within the first seven months of the year we've already surpassed the total revenue we've generated for the whole of 2009. Our year-to-date reservation sales are already double (that of) the entire period last year," Ignacio said.

The company is aggressively marketing recently launched projects—Eton Tower Makati, 8 Adriatico and West Wing Villas—with Eton Tower Makati being the best-selling project in the company's fledgling history. The project's strategic location a few meters from Ayala Avenue and affordability are seen making Eton Tower Makati a top choice for executives looking for a home or small office in the Makati central business district.

With the opening of the new mall, or units for the 48-storey luxury residences project in Quezon City, the company has also reported a dramatic increase in sales of these properties. The same is true for Eton City projects: South Lake Village, Riverhead and West Wing Residences at Eton City. With the advanced stages of development work, particularly with the 20-hectare man-made lake, sales have increased significantly.

Eton also recently opened Eton Walk, a high-end lifestyle, dining and retail center in Eton Centris, the company's 12-hectare township project at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue. Centris Station, a two-level mall built by Eton Centris, anchored by SM Hypermarket, opened in December last year to cater to the rapidly colonized Quezon City market.

Another commercial center will be opened by Eton soon—the Green Podium at One Archers Place—a dining, retail and entertainment hub to cater to the residents of the condominium as well as the students and neighboring communities of Dr. La Salle University. The company has begun the turnover of units in Summerhouse at the first quarter of its One Archers Place condominium.

Since naming operations, Eton has launched 39 projects. Its property portfolio of launched and completed projects encompasses residential, commercial, office projects and township developments.

Dull trading . . .

From page B1

as investors scrambled to look in gains following the weakness in global markets.

"Risk aversion flared up across different markets as the economic headlines in China and Eurozone tempted. The US Fed said that the US economy is faltering," said Banco de Oro Unibank analyst Jonathan Ravelas.

Chair-wise, Ravelas said last week's close implied that a near-term peak was in place at the 3,339.29.

"Next near-risk lies at the break of the 3,400 levels. A break below the said levels could call for further losses toward the 3,250-3,300 levels," Ravelas said.

US stocks fell for four consecutive sessions last week, sending the broad S&P 500 index 3.4 percent lower.

On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Index was down 16.8 points or 0.16 percent at 10,300.35. Doris C. Dumlao

Biz Buzz

Visaya's credentials are impeccable. He was a protégé of the late BSP boss Rafael Buenaventura at Citibank, and he went on to head Solidbank Corp. (before it was bought by Metrobank). At head of the Bankers Association of the Philippines in 1997, he helped us... Sorry, the country's response to the East Asian financial crisis.

Vitton's appointment, if it pushes through, caps a long and exhaustive search process led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, with several prominent candidates supposedly running down the "Richest and politically charged" assignment.

One member of the SSP's Monetary Board—initially considered the front runner for the post—was supposedly blocked by parties close to the Presidential frigidity or strength) for his ties to the previous administration. Sun-ots L. Lucas

Telco takeover

AFTER a long and bumpy ride, diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp. is nearing the acquisition of its second telecommunications platform Express Telecommunication Co. (Extelcom). The takeover is almost a "done deal" and will likely be sealed next month.

San Miguel itself will get a controlling stake in Extelcom and all-round may cost a whopping parity with its earlier Qatar Telecom (QTel) on how to manage all telecommunications vehicle, our sources say. Upon takeover, Extelcom's equity ownership will mirror that of Liberty Telecoms Holdings Inc.

The pending takeover, likewise made possible by the Supreme Court's dismissal of opposition to Extelcom's rehabilitation plan, further bears up competition in the increasing telecommunications industry. Several telecommunications players will be hoping to give long-entrenched competitors a run for their money in the voice call service. Doris C. Dumlao

From page B1

Checking out the conquest

ON Aug. 5, Banco de Oro Universal Bank president Nestor Tan and five of his senior management executives from the Universal Robina Corp.-led listed bank's office in Manila to meet up with the latter's senior officers and staff led by URC president Jean Victor Tanpuatco. After prolonged discussions, it was time for the top-level session, which was meant to ease jitters over the upcoming takeover by BDO of URC's assets.

The meeting was described as a getting to know you session that allowed BDO to talk about the prospects of URC employees after the asset sale. The good news is that BDO is not on a retrenchment spree as BDO Chairman Jesus A. Jacinto put it, adding that the acquisition of the URC assets is its own organization than EDS's turn staff. Having grabbed up banks one after the other almost every year since the turn of the century, BDO is no stranger to integration.

Tan, however, while this signals the first BDO foray in the provision of phasing in URC into BDO, certain requirements still await fulfillment in next "final" approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. We heard that among the requirements was BDO's recapitalization of URC—in the amount of a few billion pesos. Doris C. Dumlao

PSE chief in hot water!

UNKNOWN to the public, the appointment of Atty. Antonio Ibarra as president of the Philippine Stock Exchange has been a source of headaches for

Investors and Exchange Commission director Jose R. Aquino sent a letter to Alma S. Encarnacion, alternate corporate information officer of the PSE and stated, "It is evident that PSE violated Section 33.2 (b) of the Securities Regulation Code when Atty. Jose Antonio Ibarra as its president." The letter was dated July 30, 2010.

According to Aquino, the law states that "the president and other management of the Exchange [will] consist only of persons who are not members and are not associated in any capacity, directly or indirectly, with any broker or dealer or a member or listed company of the Exchange. Provided that the Exchange may only appoint a person who is not a member, associated with any broker, dealer, or member of the Exchange for a period of at least two years prior to such appointment."

Aquino further stated that "the records on file with the Commission show that the wife of SCI, Ma Antonia Soares, Milagros Cecilia Hollmeds Soares, is currently the vice president and head of sales/marketing and, at the same time, a director, officer and/or shareholder of 10 listed gas Securities Philippines Inc."

Meanwhile, Amadeo R. Ramang, general counsel and OIC of the Issuer Regulation Division, pointed out that "the JP Morgan Group has similar governance standards covering candidates for the position of president, which organizations where the employees has significant personal connection and dealings with regulators."

"These strict standards have the effect of preventing conflicts and other inappropriate arrangements between SPARC and the PSE," he said. Mingle Quintos-Espino

Found a bridge

IT SEEMS that the controversial businessmen who found "bridges" to the Palace during their heyday in the Arroyo era will succeed in getting away scot-free during the term of the sitting administration. According to our sources, somebody was able to get through Malacañang through "a lady who had connections to the presidency" to help businessmen whose businesses are doing very well."

This lady love also happens to be close to one of the President's sisters.

Will friendship triumph over what's right? Only time will tell.

Margie Quintos-Espino

'Triple birds'

THE BAGONG Alyansang Makabayan and allied groups neared the Aquino administration for wanting to collect the richest from the poorest. Well, saying "No Aquino government's fiscal policy is on you in the burden is the people."

They also take issue with plans to raise Light Rail Transit fares in Manila, calling it policy is to tier those who are the LRT and MRT lines because they don't ride on their lives all Filipino taxpayers pay out the subsidies for this public transport.

There's the irony: a popular administration pushing for unpopular measures. Popular governors were abolished at a historic meeting on Thursday when "Triple bird" (the QMO/ONE law)—including Sen. Ralph G. Recto—took Metrobanking/Bureau of Internal Revenue to task for wanting to impose a new tax in the form of the VAT on toll fees.

Former groups like Bayan will continue to oppose the expansion in 2009, which allowed unlimited people to keep in their hands an estimated ₱20 billion due to the exemption of minimum wage earners from the income tax as well as increased tax deductions for other employees.

Arroyo's economic managers, in government revenues, but Recto—their economic planning secretary—touched the same amount as part of a ₱330 billion stimulus package meant to save the Philippine from economic recession. By the end of the year, the government had spent ₱200 billion of that amount, Recto said.

Indeed, Bayan, the VAT fathers, and Malacañang seem to be saying the same thing: "do not burden the people," But all three parties resulting the same rhetoric is more confusing than George Orwell's "1984." The administration has been driven only in dire likelihood (an oft-cited example is calling war "peace"), the tax issues, we have the predicament of "triple birds."

Ronnel W. Domingo

Ecozone exports surged 40% in 1st half

From page B1

323,422 jobs in the first semester, up 1.7 percent from the 330,094 jobs last year.

Overall, total jobs created by Peza-registered businesses reached 697,187 in the January-June period, a 21.2 percent rise from 2009's 575,149.

Peza had earlier reported a 17.3-percent increase in investment commitments in the first seven months to ₱68.6 billion from close to ₱58.5 billion in the same period last year.

Of this, ₱13.3 billion came from locators while almost ₱17.2 billion came from developers. In the same period last year, locators accounted for ₱38.2 billion in investments while developers contributed almost ₱15.4 billion.

The number of projects approved from the January-July period also went up to 286 from 266 the previous month's 286, better by more than 2 percent.

Peza locators pledged 160 projects and 38 projects were committed by developers, compared with last year's 249 projects by locators and 62 projects by developers.

Gov't debt seen breaching P5-T mark in 2011

From page B1

P4.01 trillion.

In contrast, the Arroyo administration's financing program from the start of 2008 to the end of 2010 climbed up the government's debt by ₱921 billion or an average of ₱334 billion a year.

From the start of 2011 to end-2010, the Aquino administration added ₱1.57 trillion to the debt stock or an average of ₱628 billion annually.

During President Arroyo's stay in power, the debt stock grew by more than twice from ₱2.17 trillion in end-2003 to ₱4.91 trillion as of May 2010.

According to budget Secretary Florencio Abad, the proposed national budget of ₱1.54 trillion for 2011 was meant to address the lack of investment in basic social services, particularly in education and health, and social welfare.

Abad said next year's proposed budget, which is 6.8 percent bigger than this year's, will answer for the dearth of outlay on economic services such as power infrastructure and transportation systems.

He said under-investment in these services made the cost of doing business in the Philippines go high-er, and spending more would help drive economic growth.

BSP projections showed that gross domestic product or GDP—all goods made and services rendered within the country at a given time—will add up to ₱8.32 trillion this year.

From 2011 to 2016, the low end of the DBCC's growth targets range from 5 to 6.4 percent.

This means that in 2011 when debt have reached ₱5 trillion, these obligations would account for more than half or 55.7 percent of GDP which is estimated at ₱9.04 trillion in current prices.

The Aquino administration believes that when debt hit ₱6 trillion in 2015, this will account for less than half or 48.2 percent of GDP which is projected to reach ₱12.47 trillion by then.

BUSINESS

Hotline Alert: Text INQ 2010 (747 to 2467) | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Text to your landline: Inquirer to inquirer@inquirer.net

'Swiss challenge' seen as best mode for infra deals

Think tank says it promotes competition, transparency

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE COSTS of big-ticket infrastructure projects that are initiated by unsolicited proposals are comparable to those that undergo the more traditional unsolicited bidding schemes since both ensure "transparency, competition and accountability," a private think tank said.

In a recently published position paper, Forensic Solutions said the so-called "Swiss challenge" system should be pursued vigorously by the government. It said the system yields results as those obtained from competitive bidding.

"Has a especially important under present circumstances where the Aquino administration has put a premium on public-private partnerships as the method of funding an infrastructure building program, given the significant fiscal burdens it faces, Forensic Solutions said.

The Swiss challenge system involves an unsolicited proposal for a government project, which allows third parties to challenge the original proposal during a designated period, and then lets the original proponent counter-match the offers.

"This method ensures that the original offer is superior to other bids and likewise guarantees transparency, competition and accountability, just like in competitive public bidding," said the think tank, which is headed by former Justice Secretary Alberto Agra.

Forensic Solutions pointed out though, that does not legislative guidelines should first be put in place to regulate the implementation of the Swiss challenge system...and avoid future controversies like the one involving Philippine International Airport Terminals Co Inc. (PIATCO) on the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Passenger Terminal III (Take 2).

Forensic Solutions said built, legislative guidelines should address shortcomings and ambiguities in the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law and its implementing rules and regulations, which were exposed during the controversy.

Agra and lawyer Cynthia Rose Alabastro stressed that the Swiss challenge method was clearly a legitimate form of competitive public bidding, despite the controversies involving projects that went through the process.

"The Swiss challenge method preserves all the elements of transparency, competition and accountability inherent in all government contracts," said Agra and Alabastro in the think tank's first policy paper on public governance called "Institutionalizing the Swiss Challenge Method of Bidding."

"All the elements of a traditional public bidding as prescribed under the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), in one form or the other, are present in the Swiss challenge system followed under the BOT Law," the paper said.

Because of this, they stressed that the Swiss challenge method should be encouraged.

The system relieves the government of its obligation to fund expensive, large-scale projects.

Nestlé helps Filipinos lead healthier lives

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES Inc., the local subsidiary of 144-year-old Swiss company Nestlé S.A., claims to be a top authority when it comes to health and nutrition, and to top-selling chocolate, milk, yogurt and cereal products help back up its assertion.

But having hefty sales and a dominant market share, however, do not automatically mean that its consumers are becoming healthier.

Hypertension, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease and osteoporosis pose a considerable burden to an increasing number of Filipinos.

Closer wellness

As it is one of the largest food and beverage companies in the Philippines, Nestlé believes it has a responsibility to help make Filipinos more conscious about their health, and this is manifested in part through its "Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé" health and nutrition campaign.

Nestlé was guided by studies by the Food Nestlé Organization and the Department of Health.

These studies showed how climate, hypertension and diabetes were among the leading causes of death among Filipinos, and that these chronic diseases could be prevented or managed through a shift to a more healthy lifestyle that includes proper diet and exercise.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

In implementing the program more effectively, Nestlé says it rolled out its campaign in stages, starting with employees and moving on to health authorities before going to the public.

Phased implementation

The campaign has since expanded to schools, other companies and even hospitals.

Nestlé also sponsors and manages nutritionwise.ph, a website that provides visitors valuable information about good nutrition being the key to health and wellness.

NESTLÉ consumers and curious lookers flock to the Nestlé Wellness Expo (above); NPI chair and CEO John Miller (right)

Nestlé says that since its launch in 2008, the site has recorded more than one million hits and it continues to attract visitors seeking to learn more about nutrition.

Nestlé is also continuously displaying registered nutritionists in groceries, supermarkets and other public areas where customers and the general public may avail themselves of free advice on the kind of food and beverage they should take to improve their health.

Wellness expo

One of its biggest events to date is Choose Wellness Expo, where doctors, nutritionists, nurses as well as the public come together in one place like SM Megamall to talk about health and nutrition.

According to Cora Ingco, NPI corporate wellness head, the activity was designed as an enjoyable celebration for people from various walks of life. It enables participants to explore the different ways by which they can pursue well-being in their lives.

"We all have to realize that the quality of our wellness lies in our own hands. Only we can make the decisions and take the actions for ourselves that will determine the quality of our lives over the years," Ingco says.

Nestlé has likewise conducted its wellness workshops in more than 200 business tens, parents, schools and hospitals, participated by HR practitioners, teachers and medical staff.

NESTLÉ PH

ATI gets P1.6B from asset sale

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED AIRLINE Transnational Inc. (ATI) was able to raise more than P1.6 billion from the sale of its stake in the Manila-Cebu Tri-Initial to a group chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Minita Chico-Nazario.

In a recent interview, ATI chair Estelito P. Tuason said the facility's sale would allow the company to focus more on its other port development projects to be soon ready.

He said Mabuhay Genting Corp., ATI's ramp-handler, handles the port in Batanes, had a book value of P1.4 billion, but analysts placed the value of the company at P1.6 billion.

"We sold it at a much higher price than that [book value]," Tuason said.

He said, ATI announced that it had sold the company to Hyle-Eurasia Tech. named Philippine Grain International Corp.

Firm to use cash for expansion, new projects

"They have a foreign partner but I'm not sure who they are," he added.

He said the company would use the proceeds of the sale to finance the expansion of its current projects and its foray into new ventures.

ATI operates the South Harbor International Container Terminal in Manila, the Port of Batangas, the Port of Cotabato Inland and the Inland Clearance Depot container yard in Calamba, Laguna.

It posted a 43-percent increase in net profit to P224.9 million in the first quarter of the year due to the recovery in intra-island trade in the Philippines.

"Our core business is doing well because we are very focused. It's only if you're not doing anything else," Tuason said.

ATI is the local subsidiary of United Arab Emirates-based Dubai Ports World.

The Tuason group also operates the ETI group of schools.

The Batangas facility was supposed to be sold to Sacotigan Corp. but the talks between the two groups fell through after disagreements over the price and terms of the sale.

Instead, the food and beverage conglomerate, which is diversifying from luxury industries like power and infrastructure, decided to buy a minority stake in the Manila North Harbor, controlled by businessman Enrique Razon Jr.

Smart expands call, text packages

PRIZED SUBSCRIBERS of wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc. can now avail themselves of an affordable, all-in-one load bundle that allows them to use SMS or text messaging to post updates on and receive alerts from popular social networks Facebook, Friendster and Twitter.

Smart Buddy's ABTG Combo Plus is perfect for anyone with an account in any of these popular networks, as it allows them not only to call and send SMS and MMS, but also to update their social networks, all for as low as P55 per day.

"Mobile subscribers these days no longer just call or text to keep in touch with their friends and family or to share news—they also update their status, write on 'walls' and 'tweet', too. More would wish that they could do this on the go, on their cellphones without having to get on the Internet. It could work on any phone and that it doesn't matter on model or type of the mobile call and text package. The Smart Buddy ABTG Combo Plus makes all this possible," said Estela Mojica, head of Smart's wireless consumer division.

Smart's new offering is available in six variants, each one tailored to a specific budget and a preferred social network.

ABTG Combo Plus Facebook 25 is valid for one day and provides 100 Smart-to-Smart/Talk 'N Text calls and 40 SMS, plus 20 texts to other networks, five minutes of Smart-to-Smart/Talk 'N Text calls and 40 texts. ABTG Combo Plus Friendster 45 and ABTG Combo Plus Twitter 25 offer the same bundled value.

For subscribers that need more value, ABTG Combo Plus Facebook 50 is valid for two days, and provides 200 Smart-to-Smart/Talk 'N Text SMS or MMS, plus 20 texts to other networks, 30 minutes of Smart-to-Smart/Talk 'N Text calls, and 80 e-Txts. ABTG Combo Plus Friendster 50 and ABTG Combo Plus Twitter 50 offer the same bundled value.

Smart Buddy subscribers may register for the bundle on their own, by sending PB25 to 3546 for ABTG Combo Plus Facebook 25; PB25 for Friendster; or TWI25 for Twitter. For the P50 package, subscribers may send PB50 for Facebook, PB50 for Friendster; and TWI50 for Twitter.

Nestlé helps ...

From page B9

who were inspired to develop and implement wellness programs in their own organizations.

Journey

Nestlé says that four years since the launching of its Wellness Program, the company remains committed to urging Filipino families to choose health and wellness by adopting a lifestyle that focuses on proper nutrition, diet and physical activity.

According to MN chair and CEO John Hilbis, a keen runner himself with eight full marathons under his belt, wellness is a journey that everybody should take, if they want to lead long and meaningful lives.

He believes that Nestlé has enough products to help Filipinos do just that.

Firm offers cancer detection technology

By Sue T. Ochoterena

IMAGINE HOLDINGS Inc., which has grown energy, health and real estate ventures, is introducing its portable breast cancer detection technology to the Philippines.

Company chair and founder James Mackay said the Biofield Diagnostic System was "painless and noninvasive." The cancer detection process takes only 15 minutes and can be done unscheduled, he added.

Every young women, who would not normally qualify for a mammogram because of breast cancer density, can be examined using Mackay's technology.

More importantly, he said, the patented technology was more cost-efficient and is usable over more accurate than those of mammogram screening machines.

This is because the portable breast cancer detection machine generates color-coded imagery that readily shows a patient's levels of risk for breast cancer.

"The computer itself will interpret the data so all that's needed is a technician. The patient gets a printout that can be taken to the doctor. Those at risk can change diet or take other preventive measures, and those potentially with cancer can get a biopsy," Mackay said.

Traditionally, hospitals spend so much money on very expensive technology, but on by a few can afford to undertake the test, Mackay said.

While his company's portable, cost-effective technology more patients can avail themselves of testing, there is room on the market and the testing centers can be located closer to those who need them.

This, Mackay said, will result in savings for the patient, their employers whether a private firm or the government.

"It is actually cheaper for a company or a government agency to provide free testing than it is to pay for insurance and other benefits, provide other forms of support, and then watch her or him passing. We cut down the burden on government and on insurance companies," Mackay said.

MindKay Holdings CEO Terry Blackwell said the company was not directly competing with hospitals since the machines were also of friend to each institutions.

However, the larger markets for the technology are the rural areas and acrupo cities with many women employed in factories.

Another possible market are clinics in urban areas where patients do not have ready access to hospitals or cannot afford traditional screenings.

In this case, the machine at an office-recurring income for doctors since they can charge patients for the sessions.

China Bank celebrates 90th year nine ways

CHINA BANK, the country's first privately-owned commercial bank, is celebrating its ninth decade of successful operations today, August 16. Fittingly, nine promotions and activities mark the momentous event.

To kick off the anniversary festivities, China Bank dropped the interest rate for HomeOne Loan to a low 7.5% p.a. fixed for the first year. Aside from the special first year fixed rate, the Bank is also offering other low rates fixed for two to up to seven years. All applications received from July 12 to September 30, 2010 and subsequently approved are entitled to avail of the promo rates. All approved loans within the promo period must be availed on or before December 30, 2010. A radio campaign was launched to promote the special anniversary loan rate.

At China Bank's main branch in Makati, there is a photo and memorabilia exhibit from August 1 to 31. Archival materials such as antique banking and communication equipment as well as photographs that capture the glory of bygone eras are showcased. The exhibit is open to the public during banking hours.

The Bank also staged a family weekend celebration at McKinley Hill. The free, Tapang City yesterday, August 15. Dubbed "China Bank FunFest," the event featured a number of exciting activities for China Bank employees and their families as well as China Bank clients. The event was highlighted with a series of rides, fun, skits, and then fun-run races which started as early as 6:00 a.m.

Each race had four lead first, second and third place winners. Altogether, there were nine participants. For those who just wanted to run for the fun of it, they participated in the non-competitive 800 meter fun run.

"Our 80th anniversary festivities was a fun and engaging way to foster camaraderie among China Bank employees. We ran to stay fit, we had fun and got to know each other, we ran for a reason but best of all, we ran and had fun in celebration of our 90 years of partnership and success," said Mary Ann Dacanay, head of Marketing Services Department.

Those who did not run had fun trying out the large inflatables, having their picture taken at the photo booths, or playing a round of "share the load" game at China Bank Savings' booth. Some simply went around the venue, sampling the offers of the different product booths. China Bank provided free breakfast for all the FunFest participants. There was also a raffle for China Bank employees wherein free trips to Boracay, Bohol and Palawan, plus cellphone units were given away.

The China Bank FunFest was supported by Century Pacific Group, the makers of Century Tuna and by Manulife-China Bank Life Assurance Corporation (MCBLife). Major sponsors included Lambert Industries, Great Times, San Miguel Corporation, Krispy Kreme, SM Supermarket, Golden Oats, PLDT, Toby's Sports, Fly'n'Flight Events&Tourism, and Red Bull.

True to its commitment of having more than a fanfare, but the right partner —

CHINA BANKER

Coconut oil exports seen hitting $1B

Metrobank improves mobile platform

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BANKING giant Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. has boosted its mobile banking platform to offer users more convenient and cost-effective mobile banking services that run on all existing telecommunication networks.

In a statement, Metrobank said the new banking model enables clients to safely and securely conduct banking transactions such as paying bills, transferring funds, or checking account balance through their mobile phones, whether the client's network provider is a telco, Smart or Globe. "It is said to be the first in the country to offer such open access system.

At most Filipinos have come to depend on their mobile phones to manage their daily tasks, Metrobank executive vice president Johnn Dee said the bank "aims to open up its mobile banking facility to cater to the more individuals who required convenience, accessibility, security, and flexibility.

One of the services offered by the facility is the "drop-box," the first-ever universal fund facility that "ensures that even those clients to send fund via text or SMS (short messaging system) from a Metrobank account to any mobile phone regardless of telecommunications network.

Unlike other mobile banking services in the market, Metrobank does not require GPRS or Internet except for the initial set up of the application. This means no downloading charges are incurred for the use of the service.

Receipts seen hitting record high on strong demand, higher prices

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COUNTRY'S exports of coconut products will likely hit a record high this year as global demand and prices of coconut oil and products rose, according to the Philippine Coconut Administration (PCA).

As of June this year, the volume of coconut exports jumped 138 percent to 3.35 million metric tons from 539,887 metric tons recorded in the same period in 2000, PCA administrator Oscar Garin said in a recent interview.

The rise in export volume translated to $765 million in export receipts, more than double the $348.9 million recorded in the first half of last year, Garin said.

PCA deputy administrator Antonio Lizares said the agency expects coconut exports to keep growing at a fast clip until the end of the year.

"Last year was a recovery year. The surprise this year with field are now running out," Lizares explained. "There is an increased demand for coconut oil and other products and it is pulling up the prices."

According to PCA data, exports expect to the first six months of year hit 91.30 metric tons, while copra meal exports reached 414,455.72 metric tons. In the first semester of 2009, copra meal exports were just at 151,657.68 metric tons.

The volume of coconut oil exports is also approaching a record high, Lizares said.

Coconut oil exports hit 712,612.86 metric tons in the first half, a 138 percent rise from the 475,358.79 metric tons recorded in the same period last year.

The value of coconut oil exports in the first semester reached $340 million, a 163 percent surge from the $187.7 million recorded in the same period last year.

Lizares said the PCA expects coconut oil export receipts to hit over a billion dollars by the end of 2018.

Activated carbon and coco chemicals exports, meanwhile, rose 50.30 percent and 84 percent, respectively.

While exports of major coconut products grew significantly in the first half, the DOA said exports of desiccated coconut and coco shell charcoal declined by 10 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

TVI Pacific sees $51M in revenue

CAMAGA, BAMBO TVI Pacific Inc. expects its year-to-date gross revenue to reach $68.6 million with a fresh shipment of copper concentrates from the Camarin mine in Zambonga del Norte.

TVI has so far shipped 31,205 dry metric tons (dmt) of copper concentrates as of Aug. 7, 2018.

In a report, TVI Pacific said its Philippine affiliate, TVI Resource Development (Phils.) Inc. (TVIRD), completed a shipment of 5,208 dmt on Aug. 7.

The shipment was TVIRD's 16th and is expected to generate gross revenue of $2.6 million.

The latest shipment of concentrates were from the TVIRD warehouse facility and loaded in the Isarog Maria Port in Tuscon, Zamboanga del Norte.

The shipment was made in line with the offtake arrangement entered into between TVIRD and MM Trading AG.

The offtake agreement provides that MM will purchase all of the copper concentrates produced at Camarin over the anticipated life of the sulphide operation. After the 16th shipment, inventory of about 175 dmt remains in the Port Sta. Maria warehouse.

In the meantime, copper production remains steady at Camarin, according to the Canadian company Rio T. Oktoberfest

Online classified ad portal vows to help boost small businesses

SMALL AND medium enterprises need to keep up with emerging technology if they want to win a big portion of the market.

With more people looking for good items and services online, small businesses should also start focusing on selling their wares via the Internet.

Online classified ad portal ASEAN connects the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises. It vows to help make this digital shift work to small businesses' advantage.

The product and service portal is making available various limited and mobile payment gateways to its member-advertisers for easy, fast, and convenient but non-cash.

PNB, Internet and mobile banking, one is given the ability to manage business with people in many places without having to be limited by banks. Payment gateways in BIDR.com's work has ways advertisers can purchase 60,000 advertising services and receive payment from their customers.

BIDR.com recently integrated PayMaya into its site to allow payment through the Internet. The classified ad site partnered with Smartmoney to let Smart telco subscribers purchase goods or services through their mobile handsets.

BIDR.com's integration of Paypal and Smartmoney into their payment system was just the beginning. Such real development is now in progress to allow the site to accommodate more payment gateways.

The importance of SMEs' role in economic and social development cannot be denied. This stresses the need to provide them with the support services they need to be effective.

"The Internet levels the playing field and provides SMEs with the opportunity to get their products against big companies," says Jacqueline Cagayungan, ASEAN Philippines general manager.

"So long as SMEs keep abreast with the latest technology and utilizes the ease and comfort of online selling, then they are bound to grow their share of the market. We believe that by introducing affordable advertising plans and convenient ways of making and receiving payment, more Filipino entrepreneurs would be encouraged to market online. In the same way, providing consumers more product and service choices and various payment options would persuade them to buy online," she adds.

China Bank celebrates...

From page B1

not just to its customers but also to the communities it serves — China Bank is handing out cash gifts to its various service personnel.

Janitors, messengers, and guards and is inviting its housing development employees with Lessad Kalinga Foundation. The announcement was made during the Fun Fest.

Today, August 16, China Bank started its day with a special thanksgiving mass.

It is also paying tribute to its loyal employees and celebrating with clients extensively.

A total of 304 time and seniority will be honored as the China Bank Head Office Penthouse for their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service. Each of the service awardees will be recognized in a fitting ceremony not only for their loyalty and dedication but also for their contributions to the Bank's growth over the years.

"China Bank is one of the best performing banks in the country because of the commitment and determination of our employees," said China Bank president, Peter S. Dee. "It is our employees who continue to give so much to this bank and have shaped it into the strong and reputable institution that it is now. Without them, we could not continue to grow our relationship with our clients or move ahead with our big plans for the future." added Dee, referring to China Bank's goal of becoming the best bank for its customers and expanding its branch network to 600 by 2021.

Continuing the tradition of celebrating the Bank's anniversary with clients nationwide, the 90th Anniversary promotions will be simultaneously conducted by China Bank branches nationwide.

Customers who are also celebrating their birthdays today will get a special birthday gift from China Bank. All they have to do is visit their branch of account.

Present at least one ID as proof of their date of birth, and claim the prize.

There will also be a pick-a-prize promo wherein customers who transact that day have a chance to win a 90th Anniversary treat. There will be 90 winners per branch.

"We are truly grateful to our customers. Their trust and loyalty inspires us to scale greater heights and we have been doing everything we can to be the right banking partner for them. That's why on our anniversary, we thought of ways to make it as fun and exciting for them, too," said SVP-Lamuel L. Ching, deputy head of Branch Banking Group.

Aside from the in-branch promotions, the branches will also be serving snacks and refreshments and will be pulling out festive decorations.

To conclude China Bank's 90th anniversary celebration, a commemorative book that chronicles the Bank's nine decades of banking success will be released by December 2018.

"We value our heritage and we are inspired by it," said Alexander C. Tinsay Jr., China Bank's investor relations officer and head of corporate planning. "The Bank's commemorative book is more than a historical reference. It's a compelling story of our founding fathers' actions in the past and our actions now, which will have a profound effect on China Bank's future."

Incorporated in 1920, China Bank has been consistently providing quality banking products and services. Ever mindful of the changing banking landscape, the Bank continuously develops new product offerings to meet its clients' financial needs and exceed their rising expectations. With 90 years and over 250 branches and more than 400 ATMs here, China Bank remains deeply committed to making it Filipino success for business.

Toll firm on the lookout for more infra work

Agri output seen to drop in 1st half

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL production is expected to drop in the first half of 2010, from that of last year's, due to the effects of El Niño on crops, according to an agribusiness economist.

Crops make up the bulk of the country's farm output.

"It bodes like negative 2.5 to 3.5 percent following the drought effects. I think we will get better anyway in the second semester," said Dr. Rolando Dy of the University in Asia and the Pacific.

The heat may have affected fish growth, as well as the weight of livestock, Dy said.

Both losses are seen in anticipation of gains in some high value crops such as coconuts, according to the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines.

The Philippines increased coconut oil exports by 158 percent to 772,462 metric tons in copra terms for the first semester—up from last year's 275,158 tons.

Agriculture production in the first quarter fell by 2.36 percent from the same period last year. The drop was due to weather disturbances in late 2009 and early 2010.

For the whole of 2010, the government expects flat growth, former secretary and now Agriculture cadres secretary Bernie Fondevilla said in July.

Dy's firm is to consult full-farm surveying barring extreme weather like super typhoons.

In a report to Secretary Proceso Alcala, Agriculture officials said production growth of about 3.5 to 2.5 percent in the second semester of 2010 would make up for crop losses incurred in the first half.

Alcala has also decided to slash in the target of attaining rice self-sufficiency by 2013.

Higher rice output will reduce the country's imports, which reached almost 2.5 million tons in 2008 from 1.775 million tons in 2009 and 1.4 million tons in 2008.

Alcala said imports will be lowered every year, and may be wiped out, or at least "minimized," by 2013.

The Philippines, the world's largest rice importer, needs to invest more than P12 billion in 2011 to boost paddy yields and reduce dependence on global suppliers.

However, Prince Abdulhanan, director of the Department of Agriculture's national rice program, has expressed concern that budgetary constraints may result in a slight to meet budget for 2011 for the national rice program.

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE OPERATOR of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) tollway wants to invest in more infrastructure projects, particularly those being lined up by the Aquino administration.

Star Tollways Corp., which is backed by Hong Kong-registered Cypress Tree Ltd., said it had earmarked up to $150 million to bid for road projects included in the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) draft master plan for tollways in the country.

On top of that list of projects is the so called "Autoseine road"—an overhead highway that will link Cavite's Governor's Drive and the Metro Manila Skyway.

New companies—Manuel Pangilinan's Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which operates MERALCO, and the Gina Metro Manila Tollways Corp., which runs Skyway—have submitted separate unsolicited proposals for the project.

Star Tollways Corp. president Mark Dumol said that while the company remained interested in the project, it would rather join a straight auction rather than challenge the two firms' proposals.

HK-backed operator sets aside $150M for Philippine projects

"We want to wait if an auction will take place," Dumol said in a recent interview. "We have a budget of about $150 million to $250 million."

But he said the company would not proceed on its own in securing the project, and would likely find "strong local counterpart" to join up for them, eventually.

Star Tollways earlier partnered with San Miguel Corp. to bid for the contract to operate the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

He said auctions would be more transparent than dealing unsolicited proposals.

It will also be harder to question contracts that go through traditional bidding.

Another project the government has lined up is the Cavite-Laguna Expressway, which will span Imus, Kawit, Cavite, to Calamba, Laguna.

There are also plans to build an elevated toll road from the Coastal Road to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The company said it would also participate in the bidding for Toll Road Project 4—also known as TR4—which will link South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) to Laoma City in the Quezon Province.

To manage debt, gov't eyes hedging instruments

Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT may consider hedging instruments to enhance its debt-management strategy.

According to National Treasurer Roberto Tan, the Bureau of the Treasury is now studying the proposal to buy hedging instruments...something governments do to manage their liabilities.

Tan said that with the hedging instruments, the government could keep its unfavorable debt from rising further by minimizing interest rate risks.

As of end-May, the government's outstanding debt stood at P4.3 trillion.

Since 1998, following the onset of the Asian financial crisis, the government's budget deficit has been growing steadily. The deficit is financed by borrowings from domestic and foreign creditors and investors.

Under the 2010 program, the government should borrow P706 billion to fund expenditures that could not be covered by the taxes it collected.

Some of the government's borrowings, including those in the form of official development assistance from multilateral institutions, partly rely on market interest rates to determine cost.

Some benchmarks used in pricing loans tapped by the government are the Libor and current yields of 10- Treasuries.

To ensure that the cost of paying those debts would not rise in the future, even amid volatilities in the foreign exchange markets, the BTr said the government may engage in hedging.

"Some governments do that [hedging], and we [BTr] are also looking at it," Tan said in an interview last week.

A hedging instrument keeps an investor from being exposed to price risks as it sets a specific cost of trade.

In the case of the government, it only needs to pay the fixed amount set on the hedging instrument.

This will prevent the government from having to pay more, in case there is a rise in market interest rates.

The government, however, may have to pay more for the hedging instrument.

Apart from hedging, the government also plans to engage in dollar-bond exchange.

Under the exchanges, the government will encourage holders of dismissed bonds to exchange those with longer-dated ones.

The intention is to lengthen the average maturities of the government's debts.

According to officials, transactions do not need their cash at once, and so may opt to invest further by exchanging their securities for those that will mature in the longer term.

ChinaBank Savings offers zero maintaining balance ATM account

China Bank subsidiary, ChinaBank Savings, launches its most affordable and convenient ATM account yet, East-Save Basic.

East-Save Basic, offered as all ChinaBank Savings branches starting today, August 16, is a passbook savings account with waived initial deposit and minimum monthly average daily balance (ADB) requirements. It comes with an ATM card, which can be claimed instantly – immediately after account opening – and a monthly statement of account for easy monitoring. The account also earns an interest of 1% minus the ADB reaches P5,000.

"We hope to encourage more people to start opening bank accounts and develop the habit of saving," enthused ChinaBank Savings president, Samuel L. Chiong. "By offering this fuss-free ATM account that can be maintained even at zero balance and zero penalties, we make ATM banking a lot more convenient."

ATM accounts in the market today usually requires a minimum deposit of at least P500 and an ADB of P5,000. Charges are levied against accounts that fall below the required ADB. ChinaBank Savings underscored its promise of making banking easy for customers with East-Save Basic which can be opened with zero initial deposit (a one time fee of P100 pesos is required to open the account). The zero maintaining balance feature and the 1% interest that can be earned for building up savings to at least P5,000 makes it perfect for students, daily wage earners, and anybody who wants to have a ready-of-hand, no frills ATM account.

East-Save Basic is available at ChinaBank Savings' branches at Ayala Avenue (main branch), Quezon Avenue, Alabang Hills, Kalookan, Greenhills-Wilson, Marikina City, Pasong, Las Piñas, McKinley Hill, San Fernando and Cebu. East-Save Basic account holders have 24/7 convenient access to their accounts through China Bank and China Bank Savings' over 600 ATMs and any BancNet, MegaLink or ExpressNet ATM nationwide. The card can also be used for cashless shopping at any BancNet accredited store.

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

Opportunities abound in high-end rice mart

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NOT ALL rice varieties are created equal.

That's the conversion of SL Agritech Corp., which has expanded its operations from the production of hybrid rice seeds to the retailing of different rice varieties under the Doña Maria brand.

Realizing the great opportunities in pioneering the high-end rice market, the country's leading producer of hybrid rice seeds has gone all the way from seed to shelf, to finally, the dining table.

SL Agritech CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong tells *Pantas*ylife in an interview that high-end rice consumers and hotels buy imported long grain rice from countries such as Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and India because local varieties fall short of the quality demanded by their patrons.

These diners want long grain and soft rice, not just for dishes such as atsuete, paella and Hainanese chicken rice, but also as complementary sidings for savory meals.

Lim says that is a risk high income, discriminating market that Doña Maria...started after his mother—wants to service, which would mean less importation expenses and more income opportunities for local rice farmers.

"Doña Maria rice is quite special. It's like Japanese but long grain and it smells good. Even if you run the cooked rice the next day it will still be soft. That's what we tell our potential institutional buyers," claims Lim.

SL Agritech started advertising the Doña Maria brand of rice in Asia through billboards, pamphlets and a number of point ads. Lim says corporate has been proactive, with a number of hotels and restaurants now pleasing regular orders for the brown variety of Doña Maria rice.

Chefs at the Jaegrum Jangsamsa on the Bluffy Hispanica that come in brown, white and mixed brown and white varieties.

It's the white rice that sells the most, but Lim says that sales of brown rice are slowly catching up because of the growing demand for healthy food, including fiber rich brown rice.

"It will be such a waste if we do not promote our own product," says Lim, "I believe our rice can put us on the international market. We just need an identity for Philippine rice in the world market."

The new Doña Maria was one step to make some headway into the P400-billion local rice market but you, but it had to pull back because it was one of supply following the damage caused by Tropical Storm Ondoy and Typhoon Pepeng. Now, to more subdistributors a number of its supply agreements.

"Now we have to try and win them back," says Lim.

To prevent a repeat of the expensive supply disruptions, Lim says SL Agritech has entered in to more subcontracting arrangements with farmers, especially in the rice-producing areas in Central Luzon, to ensure supply.

Lim says the harvests from rice fields using SL Agritech hybrid seeds have started coming in, which is why it feels more confident about going aggressive marketing of the Doña Maria rice number, values try.

"We are targeting even just 1 percent of the huge local market. If we can increase that to 2 percent, we will be very very happy," Lim says.

ILLUSTRATION wants to bring Doña Maria rice to the world.

Dough flies as pizza masters battle it out

SHAKEY'S PIZZA employees went to the grip of feverish excitement when they were told the first finals of the Pizza Masters.

That event is part of the company's 50th year anniversary celebration. The finals of the Pizza Masters is a competition among Shakey's employees to showcase their talents and expertise in three events—Dough Throwing, Knowledge Quiz Bee and Iconic Skills.

The tournament was open to all managers and staff members, after the elimination round where 18 teams competed, the top 5 teams battled it out for the Top 3 slots for the Finals. Each team had four members from the staff level and a manager coming from the same area. The manager in each Team was automatically appointed captain. A team coach was designated for each area. The coach must be a restaurant manager or officer in charge of a restaurant from the same area.

The tournament aims to further strengthen and sustain year-long competition spirit, teamwork, camaraderie and open motivation to consistently excel in quality and compliance to standards in the addition of the much-coveted annual Shakey's Cup of Excellence.

"Every time I visited a restaurant, it certainly felt like everybody was asking me about the finals of the Pizza Masters," says Monroe L. Gregorio, executive vice president and chief operating officer of International Family Food Services Inc.

Gregorio says that the event was first inspired by what he saw and experienced in Florida, in the United States. He ventured to bring the same thrill and excitement to Shakey's Philippines since it blended perfectly with the brand's tagline Fun, Family, and Pizza.

"My thought it was a simple Skills Olympics, but when we started thinking about it, we thought we could take it to a higher level. It is perfect. [It was a] fun filled event which brings out the family spirit," he

THE WINNERS of Shakey's Battle of the pizza masters celebrate their victory.

Pick your perfect Thailand and Singapore holiday with Singapore Airlines

Enjoy these all-inclusive packages

CHIANG MAI & SINGAPORE
FROM USD 583
2 NIGHTS CHIANG MAI
1 NIGHT SINGAPORE

PHUKET & SINGAPORE
FROM USD 586
2 NIGHTS PHUKET
1 NIGHT SINGAPORE

BANGKOK & SINGAPORE
FROM USD 595
2 NIGHTS BANGKOK
1 NIGHT SINGAPORE

Take in all the vibrant sights and sounds of Bangkok, then visit the exciting metropolis of Singapore. Singapore delivers with a variety of specially designed packages at fantastic prices. En route, enjoy firstclass, your personal inflight entertainment system, and the inflight service even other airlines talk about. For more information, visit singaporeair.com

SIA Holidays

Conditions apply to Singapore via USD583 and to Thailand via USD586. These airfare rates are per person based on twin sharing.

A camera that offers something for everyone

Text and Photos by Eugene Arsenio

ITS INTUITIVE, high-tech features, sturdy build and stylish design are the stuff that put the new GE X5 Power Pro series in a class of its own.

The new GE X5 is loaded with many features that will meet the needs of everyday photo fanatics and even the style conscious shutterbugs.

The camera is equipped with a 14.1-megapixel Charged Coupled Device (CCD) sensor that can produce clear and sharp images.

It has a light sensitivity of 64 to 1200 ISO, making it capable of capturing images under different lighting conditions.

The GE X5 has a burst length of 27 movie (HD) interval making it possible for the photographer to capture images at various distances and angles like a pro.

It is also equipped with an Optical Image Stabilization feature that helps you capture fast moving subjects or actions with ease.

It is also capable of capturing video at 30 frames per second in VGA (640 x 480 pixels or 320 x 240 pixels using the Quick-Time Motion JPEG format and G.711 for audio.

The GE X5 is featured with various shooting mode features like pan-capture panorama, auto scene detection, blink detection, smile detection, face detection, electronic image stabilization and red-eye removal. The camera also supports various shooting modes (auto, manual, ASCN, image stabilization, movie), scene modes (spot, children, indoor, fast, snow, sunset, fireworks, glass, museum, landscape, night landscape, night portrait, candlelight, party, pet, beach, text, and fireworks) and has PictBridge and Exif Print support, as well as multi-language support.

It has built-in 10 MB internal memory expandable with an SD/SDHC slot that can take as much as 4 GB.

This camera uses four double-A batteries, which is a notable feature. This type of battery is available everywhere, you'll never have to wait for your camera battery to charge.

Intended for mass market consumers, the GE X5 has a suggested retail price of only P15,495 and comes with a Merlin "PUMP!" cell phone that you can purchase for a discounted price of only P1,500.

InfoTech

Canon unleashes point and shooter with advanced features

CANON IXUS 700 IS

By Raquel P. Gomez

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES have allowed new consumer point-and-shoot cameras to perform better in low light scenes and capture moving subjects.

One such digital imaging device is Canon's IXUS 700 IS, which features the ground-breaking High-Sensitivity (HS) system—a technology that combines a back-Illuminated 3.0-megapixel CMOS sensor with Canon's own DIGIC 4 Imaging Processor.

Amazing speed

Paired with such technology the IXUS 700 IS is now able to counter the effects of camera shake resulting in subjects and scenes that are still sharp with minimized blurring even when taken in harsh lighting conditions, such as night scene in coffee shops or bars and clubs.

Another good feature of the combined technology behind this compact camera is it enables you focus on a subject in scene, processing the image in an amazing speed even when shooting in difficult conditions, such as when a subject is dancing in dim club lights.

The IXUS 700 HS also features a bright f/2.0 lens, providing the largest aperture capability among Canon's Digital IXUS camera lineup, considered to be the premier and prime Canon point-and-shoot camera.

Photographers and enthusiasts know too well that a large aperture makes for photos or subjects with shallow depth of field—the natural background blurring. With such features, the IXUS 700 HS is capable of producing stunning portraits and duo and in perspective.

Ease of use

Canon also fitted the device with a high-speed shooting features. The camera can capture up to 8.4 shots per second in High-Speed Burst mode.

With this handy feature, an IXUS 700 HS user can now capture subjects in motion or document fast sequences, such as sports activities—golf strokes, bat swings, and swimming movements—and use the feature to observe or improve sports performance.

As to operability, the IXUS 700 HS is similar to any other digital point and shooters as it offers ease-of-use and intelligent features in a small form factor.

It features the Advanced Smart Auto mode that utilizes Canon's latest scene detection and face detection technologies to intelligently select the settings that match the shooting conditions and come out with well-balanced exposures.

There are also special creative options that put the fun back in photography, such as fish-eye mode that alters the image for a circular wide-angle effect, and miniature mode that approximates the look of a tilt-shift lens.

Other compact camera features include the Smart Shutter (smile, wink, and face detection) that allows users multiple ways to accurately activate the camera's shutter, whether by the introduction of a new face into the frame, via a smile, or even by winking.

But for enthusiasts who wish to have better control of the camera for added effect, the IXUS 700 HS features manual exposure such as Av (Aperture-priority) and Tv (Time-Value or Shutter-priority) shooting modes.

Unmatched

From the Favorites Set button and more manual control can be accessed, such as ISO film speeds, white balance control, and light metering (evaluative, spot and center weighted).

A unique feature of the IXUS is its capability to shoot 240 frames per second and does playback in slow motion at 30 frames per second for cinematic appeal.

Images and videos can be viewed comfortably on the camera's 3-inch, 16:9 widescreen LCD.

The handy IXUS 700 HS, with its snap-like shooting design and minimal hardware buttons, comes in eye-popping shiny metallic colors of red, white and black. It also executes advanced functionalities that other point-and-shooters have yet to match.

Being competitive starts with being productive.

Here's your edge.

IBM

To help your business be more productive, the IBM® System x3650 M3 Express® server, featuring the Intel® Xeon® processor 5600 series, can help you achieve up to 40% increased performance.* With more storage and memory capacity, it is now possible to access and process more data than ever before—helping you to efficiently meet your increased business demands.

IBM System x3650 M3 Express 7945B2A
Price: Php217,000.00

IBM System x3550 M3 Express 7944B2A
Price: Php289,800.00

IBM System Storage DS3512 Express 1746A2D
Price: Php823,800.00

See for yourself.

ibm.com/ph/offers
1-800-1888-1426

intel Xeon inside
Powerful. Intelligent.

Shutterbug's tough, handy companions

Text and Photos by Eugene Arsenio

"WHEN the going gets tough, the tough get going."

In gist the popular phrase, which the new Olympus Tough camera seem to live up to.

The μ Tough-8010 and μ Tough-6020 are the latest point-and-shoot cameras from Olympus and are specifically designed to withstand extreme or rigorous conditions without compromising performance.

They're designed to be the essential companion of shutterbugs who love the great Outdoors.

The μ Tough-6020 and μ Tough-8010 are shockproof when dropped from a height of 1.5 meters to 2 meters, and waterproof from 5 meters to 10 meters, respectively. It is also freeze proof to as low as -10° Celsius.

The μ Tough-6020 and μ Tough-8010 are both equipped with a 14-megapixel Charged Coupled Device (CCD) image sensor type that provides clear and sharper pictures.

Both cameras have a focal length of 28 mm wide angle with a 5X optical zoom that will give you a 140 mm telephoto angle—the angle that allows you to get closer to your subjects and capture adventures.

Both cameras have built-in Dual Image Stabilization that helps capture scenes in fast-paced shooting shoots. Both units have a sensitivity of 80 to 1600 ISO for various lighting conditions.

These cameras are also featured with 27 different scene modes like portrait, landscape, night scene, sports, candle, self portrait, cuisine, documents, backlight and more underwater snapshot, underwater wide1 and underwater macro scene modes that will optimize the best exposure results for every photo taken.

Another good thing about the new Tough cameras are they have the ability to record HD quality videos using the standard 1080i 4 format. For this function, storage is not a problem as both units feature a 3 GB internal storage and both cameras can accept up to 16 GB SD/SDHC removable media.

There "toughies" sell in top general retail prices of P19,995 for μ Tough-6020 and P23,995 for the μ Tough-8010.

THE μ Tough-8010 and μ Tough-6020 are water shockproof and freeze proof even when subjected to harsh conditions.

Simplifying the tax system: The way to go

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Edwardo IV Nyk

THE PHILIPPINES does not lack for a comprehensive tax system. In fact, we adopted the best from both worlds... United States and Europe, with a plethora of taxes that are all-encompassing in coverage.

The tax net covers anything that moves, figuratively speaking.

There is a tax law when income is earned, when it is spent and when it is distributed.

Even after death, an individual's assets accumulated during his lifetime and already taxed, is again subject to the estate tax.

The current tax system is the product of the collective and brilliant minds in both the executive and legislative departments of government spanning many administrations.

Yet, it is a fact that the system does not yield sufficient tax revenues for the government.

Collection efficiency

For every a-thumber since 1997, tax collection efficiency had been in the dollar between 12.5 to 14 percent of GDP. Proceeds from privatization and borrowings are used to close the yawning budget gap.

As a result, national governmental assets are fast depleting and debt keeps soaring. Social services and spending and infrastructure remains woefully deficient.

The national debt was P5,166 trillion nine years ago in 2000. Since then, it had more than doubled to P4.498 trillion as of March 2010. The debt is equivalent to a large 56.4 percent of the annual gross domestic production of goods and services.

A serious rethinking of the government's approach to taxation is necessary to extricate us from this quagmire.

A study by Ibon shows that "tax reforms in the Philippines cannot work unless they form part of a more-anti-poly-ective public sector program."

Perhaps not, if are living to the nuclear option, i.e., the ultimate tax solution—by drastically simplifying the system and focusing it on just two major classifications of domestic taxes—a direct final percentage tax on gross receipts or earnings, similar to a gross receipts tax (GRT), to replace the complicated and leakage-prone tax on net earnings or income tax.

The other will be an indirect tax—the consumption tax, in the form of the present value-added tax (VAT). All other taxes that shadow the tax code should be discarded and replaced by either of the two major taxes mentioned above. Even domestic taxes will be the tax on international trade to complete the tax lineup. These three types of taxes shall comprise the revenue generators of the government.

Simplifying the tax system

This proposed revision will simplify the tax system and vastly facilitate and improve administration while providing a no-brainer system for taxpayers to comply.

Voluntary compliance will be encouraged, resulting in more tax revenues for the perennially cash-strapped government. Our experience shows that throwing new taxes or to higher rates at the problem is not the solution.

Aside from its simplicity, the final GRT has the distinct and significant advantage of being able to provide the government a monthly revenue stream of policymakers is the possible drastic fall in tax revenues after the proposed GRT system is instituted. This risk may be minimized or altogether eliminated by built-starting the GRT against historical data of specific sectors.

Reform measures

To simplify the tax system to the hilt, radical surgery is needed with all percentage rates and excise taxes abolished and replaced with the GRT. By each time, the VAT should have been enshrined more palatable with offsets, such as VAT rebates for low income earners and conditional cash transfers to the poor, in lieu of price subsidies for basic needs.

Other reform measures should include the eschewing different tax treatments. For instance, the distinction between ordinary and capital assets, which at the last of times is prone to abuse, must be discarded with both given similar treatment and taxed on the gross proceeds.

The "system inertia" is a formidable force that could hinder change, for over half a century since the inception of our tax system, we have been inculcated and immersed in a complex system such that we have become rooted to its inefficiencies. To create a wheel that is round and to simple and efficient system, like the one proposed here, will be a difficult and painful process.

To lessen resistance and for procedure sake, the change may be gradually eased into the system in stages. Initially, the final GRT may be introduced in individual taxpayers and businesses with gross receipts up to a prescribed threshold, say, P100 million. All others, including startups, may remain with the net income tax and migrate to the GRT after, say, three years. The switch to the VAT by those in the coverage and other entities may follow.

The opportune time to introduce the first stage of the GRT may be midway through the term of this new administration. By such time, the paper money may be sufficiently enough elimination to provide better clarity on the feasibility of this proposed final GRT. By such time, also, we shall have seen how far we can go with streamlined tax enforcement, and with better motivated taxpayers.

Tax returns

Significantly, the tax returns filed during the intervening period under that new dispensation may be more reflective of the results of operations and earnings of taxpayers. Accordingly, we shall have a more accurate database to determine fairly representative sectoral benchmarks as a basis to establish the optimal GRT rates for legislation of the GRT.

We have cited the complex architecture, perhaps it is time to try the simple.

(The author is a certified public accountant, member of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and the National Issues Committee. This article is excerpted from his forthcoming book, "The Tax Revision Bible of the National Budget in the Forthcoming Palatan II" of Knowing the Budget. (To The National Budget A Broad Overview is the lead article of Volume 1. The article reflects the personal opinion of the author. For feedback, email mapi@globelines.com.ph.)

Dough flies as pizza masters . . .

From page B11

added.

The competition started with the Knowledge event. The quiz bee entails concentration, memory and deep understanding of Shakey's Operations Standards, history and rules.

"The Knowledge event is right in the alley of creating standards . . . we are very serious in our operations standards," Singapurwanan said.

On the other hand, the Skills event was tailored after Iron Chef. It is a competition between Teams 1 and Team 18, which came all the way from the Cebu group of Franchisee Inasal Inc. The event entails speed, accuracy, showmanship and quality.

Meanwhile, the Dough Throwing event is a show of acrobatic skills of rolling, spinning and tossing the dough. The event was the most applauded since the participants even incorporated various themes, like Timbling and modern dance, while some audits soaked when they managed to incorporate dancing and singing a la Hero Perdido while tossing dough.

Attendance and performance exceeded the company's expectations. Thus, aside from the first Employee of the Month and Cagayan Excellence awards, Shakey's employees now have another fun and exciting activity they can look forward to every year.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AyalaLand

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) announces its shift to the GLOBE MANAGED IP-PBX SOLUTION for all telephone lines at its headquarters at Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

This applies to ALI offices located at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st floors of the building.

Our new TRUNK LINE is

908-3000

If you know the local number of the person you wish to contact, simply replace the first 4 digits (8413) of his old number with 3000 and retain the last 3 digits.

BUSINESS

La Salle group nurtures Ateneo clothing brand

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

NINETEEN YEARS ago, a group of Ateneo de Manila students talking up Business Management came up with a thesis on a clothing apparel that is well-suited to be casual yet trendy. They christened it "Blued" as a tribute to the school color and spirit of the university. Little did they know that their thesis will be a forerunner of chaotic, trendy and casual styles for everyday wear.

Years later, the Ateneo students divested to sell the brand to their archrival, La Salle.

Benson Tan of La Salle used to buy plain white Blued shirts and load the wearer, "Ateneo Egg Iran" imprinted on the shirt to dare his fellow Lasallista could wear it during the duel between their school and Ateneo at the UAAP basketball games. He gladly took over the brand from the Ateneans. But he retained the brand name.

Formidable

Tan did not allow school rivalry to affect business. He managed to make Blued a formidable brand and positioned to branch-in across the Metro and some provincial cities, including one at Robinson's Tacloban.

Now, the trendy brand goes back to school and students are to university students for "The Blued Project."

This project invites students from the UAAP and NCAA zones to formulate an award-winning fashion design and marketing campaign for the brand. Pre-selection will be conducted in each school.

In the end, representatives from seven schools will compete for the prize: the on-the-job internship in Blued Clothing that will culminate in a fashion show to showcase their very own clothing line for the season.

"Blued is going back to its roots and we want students to go out there and help us understand how the market thinks," says Ozzie de Leon-Cortes, vice president for marketing. "We want them to come up with a line that is wearable in school yet still be suitable in the market," she adds.

The Blued project will kick off this September as the search for the seven representatives begin. The participants will be given the signature Blued fabric to work with and all other materials will also be provided. The includes a working budget for the clothing line. No joining fees will be paid by the participants.

School rivalry did not get in the way of growing 'Blued' into a leading apparel firm

"The Blued Project" aims to encourage students to design their own clothing line.

Proudly Filipino

"We will be there to guide them and we'll coordinate with the schools to monitor the hours rendered as an on-the-job training," says Cortes.

Afterwards, their designs will be judged by a panel who will be composed of experts from the different industries of fashion, media and business. "The panel will be there to ensure that the designs will have the style of 'xyloprinsesa'," adds Cortes.

Apart from keeping track on the pulse of fashion, Blued Clothing is likewise committed to responsible fashion. Blued manufactures 99 percent of their products here in the Philippines. "Blued is proudly Philippine-based," Cortes says.

Safety standard

Blued only works with fabrics that have passed the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 criteria. This is a joint development by the Austrian Textile Research Institute and the German Research Institute Hohenstein, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 provides a uniform safety standard for companies within the textile and clothing industry. "They make sure that the fabric we use is safe for humans and is environmentally-friendly," explains Cortes.

Blued Clothing retails P800 for basic tank shirts and P999 for basic jeans. For ladies wear, a basic shirt retails at P1,695 and P899 for basic jeans.

BLUED VP Ozzie de Leon-Cortes

Coaching with the Brain in Mind

First time in Manila

A Special Presentation with the CEO and Founder of Results Coaching Systems, one of the world's largest and most respected coach training organizations

Join global thought leader and Results Coaching Systems Founder, David Rock for an informative session. Through this highly interactive and experiential workshop, you will:

- Discover the science behind how and why coaching works
- Learn how a brain-based approach to coaching can help to facilitate positive change in others and improve performance
- Discover insights into how to coach more effectively
- Experience the power of coaching through an interactive session with David
- Learn how you can be a ICF certified coach with Results Coaching Systems' comprehensive training programs

Dr David Rock is one of the thought leaders in the global coaching profession. The coaching system he developed in the mid-90's has been taught to over 10,000 professionals worldwide. He is the founder of Results Coaching Systems, which is helping organizations such as Ericsson, IDEO and American Express build coaching cultures. He is the author of four books: **Personal Best: Quiet Leadership; Coaching with the Brain in Mind** and **Your Brain at Work**.

He is an faculty at CIMBA, an international business school in Europe, and a guest lecturer at Oxford University in the UK. David is also the founder of the Neuro Leadership Summit and Journal, a global initiative bringing neuroscientists and leadership experts together to build a new science for leadership development. He is outstanding citizen with several neuroscientists on research and has a doctorate in the Neuroscience of Leadership. David lives between New York and Sydney Australia.

Event Details

Presenter: Dr David Rock, Chief Executive Officer, Results Coaching Systems

Date: Saturday 28 August

Time: 10:00am – 12:30pm

Venue: Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila

Investment: Php 3000

About Results Coaching Systems (RCS)

RCS is one of the world's largest coach training organizations and was co-founded by the International Coach Federation (ICF). Our suite of 11 high-impact coach training programs enable leading behavioural change and sustainable results in more than 25 countries around the world.

In the corporate arena, we specialise in empowering coaching cultures within organisations to develop leaders, retain talent, improve performance and create value. We are one of the world's leaders in building internal coaching capabilities, having run over 200 programs, including thousands of executives. Some of our clients include ING, IBM and HSBC & Citibank.

Seats are limited. To register, email asia_sales@resultscoaches.com or visit www.resultscoaches.com/training/events/manila-coaching-essentials.php

Results Coaching Systems

www.resultscoaches.com

FROM LEFT, Citi's country head Sanjiv Vohra, vice president for cards marketing Ria Mangay, and country marketing director Cecille Fernandez check out Citi's latest credit card, the Cash Back Card that gives cardholders a rebate on some of their purchases.

InFocus

SHOW! Don't Tell.

Visualize your ideas to full confidence and clarity, infocus projectors magnify your thoughts in a more vivid and straight forward manner. Real result comes with great resolution. Make bright ideas brilliant with infocus.

IN102 — P26,990

IN104 — P37,990

IN105 — P44,990

Get a FREE full dome P3324 laser printer worth P1,000 when you purchase IN104 or IN105.

American Technologies, Inc. | Showroom: 2 Isaac St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong | Tel: 384-3000 | Fax: 384-4888 | Email: inquiry@ati.com.ph | Url: www.ati.com.ph

MOVEMENT

Security Bank names new investment banking head

EDGARDO CUBES recently joined the management team of Security Bank Corp. as Executive Vice President and Head of its Corporate and Investment Banking Segment.

He is responsible for the institutional banking platform which includes the corporate banking and investment banking units of the bank. He was also appointed President of SB Capital Investment Corp. and Chairman of SB Equities, Inc., both are subsidiaries of Security Bank.

Cubes a distinguished international banker, with extensive exposure in the field of corporate finance, investment and corporate banking in the United States and Asia.

He has over 17 years of work experience from Citibank N.A. Philippines, Morgan Stanley & Co., and Wee Hiaw Ik & Co. Inc., among others.

Here a graduate of Bachelor of Arts major in Economics from University of California, Berkeley and has a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) with a dual major in Finance and Management from the Leonard H. Stern School of Business, New York University.

BUSINESS

Global enterprise IT spending may rise 2.9%

By Abigail L. Ho

Manufacturing sector expected to spend $426B in 2010

AFTER A challenging 2009, enterprise information technology spending is projected to grow 2.9 percent this year to reach more than $2.4 trillion, with the manufacturing and natural resources sector accounting for bulk of overall spending.

According to research firm Gartner Inc., the manufacturing and natural resources sector may account for $426.1 billion of total enterprise IT spending this year, 2.6 percent more than last year's $415.3 billion.

The second biggest spender may be the communication media and services vertical with a projected $392.5 billion, up 3.6 percent from the $378.8 billion registered a year ago.

A close third may be the banking and securities sector with $390.3 billion, an increase of 2.8 percent from the previous year's $379.5 billion.

The biggest growth, however, will come from the utilities vertical at 4.7 percent to $125.6 billion this year from $119.9 billion last year.

National and international governments spending may likewise grow at a faster pace than other verticals at 4 percent this year to $244.4 billion, from the previous year's $235.1 billion.

Gartner research director Kenneth Brant said technology and service providers would consider these high-growth industry segments from now until 2014.

At the same time, he said, they should also analyze low-growth segments, to take advantage of "unusual growth opportunities as the sub-industry segment level."

In making their business plans, he said IT product and service providers should take into consideration projections on the economy, and the possible impact of these forecasts on enterprise IT spending.

"We're advising our technology provider clients to prepare business plans for 2011 on the basis of our most likely scenario for enterprise IT spending growth,...3.3 percent. However, they should act now to develop contingencies to mitigate the risk of zero growth in 2011—a scenario that carries a lower probability but a much higher potential impact," Brant said. "The bottom line is, technology providers need to be prepared for the worst."

Utilities worldwide turn to solar power

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) systems, although still relatively expensive to deploy, are quickly becoming the renewable energy technology of choice by utilities worldwide, according to research from Gartner Inc. and the Solar Electric Power Association (Sepa).

A recent survey of utilities in Europe and the United States revealed that, while wind and biomass were also being used as key renewable energy sources for the near term, solar PV was the most popular among utilities.

"PV solar systems are a cost-effective means of adding distributed and central generation sources. System costs have decreased by over 30 percent since 2008. This has lowered the cost of electricity from these systems and improved their competitiveness relative to other renewable energy sources," Gartner research director Ali Heron Vahim said.

"PV systems are attractive to many organizations and individuals as they can be designed relatively easily, in a wide range of sizes and to fit in many different locations," Heron added.

Apart from cost considerations, survey respondents noted the importance of government policies and regulation in their decision to deploy solar PV systems.

"Although price declines will continue to make PV more competitive with retail and wholesale electricity pricing, it is unlikely that the importance of policy will decline significantly in the near term," Sepa research director Mike Taylor said.

Here in the Philippines, solar power is used mainly to off-grid and missionary areas.

The state-run National Power Corp. is set to sign a deal with Belgium-based renewable energy developer Belfinity for the establishment of solar power projects in off-grid areas Bonifacio, Dilasag and Quezon.

Under the planned agreement, Belfinity may put up a total of 10 megawatts (MW) of solar power capacity in Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group areas.

This capacity, however, may go as high as 20 MW, to take advantage of economies of scale.

Abigail L. Ho

Filinvest reported 94% growth in H1 income

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp., the holding company of the Gotianun group, posted a 94-percent growth in first semester consolidated net income to P5.9 billion.

Net income attributable to equity holders of parent company amounted to P5.06 billion—136 percent higher than the level a year ago.

Real estate operations posted P2.4 billion in net revenues.

Sale of lots, condominium and residential units, and club shares during the period amounted to P3.6 billion—56 percent higher than the same period last year.

Middle income projects of Filinvest Land Inc., which include medium rise buildings, accounted for most of the sales.

Financial and banking services also contributed to net revenue by 60 percent to P2.3 billion. Interest income increased by P1.1 billion due to higher loans, receivables and investments in fixed income securities.

Other income also increased by P108 million due to the increase in service charges on loans, fees, commissions and trading and miscellaneous income.

With the growth in the various of business, operating expenses increased by 21 percent, principally from the increase in manpower and expanded operational costs.

Target operations contributed P327 million in net revenue to the group's total revenue during the current period. It posted an increase of P139 million or 54 percent than the same period last year, resulting mainly from the sale of inventories at higher prices.

Finally, bond operations generated P3 million in net revenue after its soft opening in May 2010. Total expenses at P47 million pertained mainly to pre-opening costs.

Inquirer Monday
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
DEADLINES
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010 B

Department of Transportation and Communications
PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
139 25th St. Port Area, Manila, 1018

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Coast Guard, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the following projects. The description of the Eligible Bidder is contained in Section 3 of the Bidding Documents. The

Item No.	Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Bidding Documents	Delivery Schedule
1	Procurement of 800 units of Computers (Desktop)	₱ 24,000,000.00	₱ 10,000.00	60 days
2	Procurement of Airport Patrol Vehicle Marine Diesel Engine for Sister Patrol Vehicle Type Boats	₱ 5,000,000.00	₱ 5,000.00	30 days
3	Procurement of Construction Materials for General Overhauling of the Port Area Office Building (Complete Materials)	₱ 2,700,000.00	₱ 2,000.00	30 days

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening, and the shall not be considered.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships with at least sixty percent (60%) interest in corporations, cooperatives or associations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest owned by Filipinos, duly licensed and authorized to engage in the business of each project under bidding or prospective to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only those bidders who pass the eligibility check will be qualified. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 5 of the Bidding Documents, 2009. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo to the post-qualification stage in order to check the veracity of the statements of his bid on technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification conference.

You may obtain further information from Philippine Coast Guard and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Coast Guard Commissary Service
Philippine Coast Guard
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from **August 16 to August 31, 2010, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** of the address below upon submission of letter of intent and payment of the corresponding fee in the amount indicated above. The method of payment shall be made in cash or certification by the Head of the Procuring Entity or the office that the Philippine Coast Guard has rendered or rendered a service/contract with the bidder in the previous year which is still existing or valid. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on the **2nd September 2010, 10:00AM** at the Philippine Coast Guard Conference Room, 2F Admin Building, 139 25th Street, Port Area, Manila.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 15, 2010, 10:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on the **September 15, 2010, 10:30 AM** at the PCG Conference Room. Bidders are invited to the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PCG-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

Philippine Coast Guard
139 25th Street, Port Area, 1018 Manila
Tel. Nos.: 4529-2167 to 4529-2201
Telefax No.: +63 (2) 527-8481 loc 6232

(Sgd.) CONNIE ENRICO-OTIEN & EMANUELITA PUS
BAC Chairman

(PS) - August 16, 2010

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MUNICIPAL RESOURCES
Region XII, Cagayan de Oro
Regional Government Center, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro, 9000
Tel. No.: (088) 856-0000

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CADASTRAL LAND SURVEY PROJECT

The DENR XII, through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2010, intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Eight and 00/100 (₱15,754,368.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Cadastral Land Survey Location Work to be:

Lot 1 - ₱5,000,000.00 for Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya (Category #1)
Lot 2 - ₱5,251,456.00 for Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya (Category #2)
Lot 3 - ₱5,502,912.00 for Malaybalay, Bukidnon (Category #3)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The DENR XII now calls for the submission of eligible documents for Category "3" Project, prospective Cadastral Lot(s) shall include the Project Location in the Philippines and are further classified under Category "3" which shall include Cadastral Projects. Interested consultants must submit their eligibility documents on or before August 30, 2010 on or later than 5:00 P.M. at DENR XII, Regional Government Center, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on the following "pass/fail" criteria:

The BAC shall open an Envelope of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents and Expression of Interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), shall be opened at the time and place specified above. Only the consultants submitting the eligibility documents that passed the eligibility check will be invited to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals.

a. Qualification of a Project Head/Technical Specialist Acting as Assistant Specialist (Project Head or Key Expert)
b. Qualification of Support Staff (Surveyor)
c. Experience in Conduct of Survey Working from Beginning to end as one of Cadastral or Public Land Subdivision Survey Projects or in Complex Subdivision Projects
d. Has no pending or unresolved criminal cases from Regional Trial Courts or Sandiganbayan
e. Shall not be involved in more than one (1) Cadastral Project during the contract implementation period
f. Has undergone orientation/training/seminar on cadastral projects conducted by the DENR in coordination with Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines (GEP) or by the GEP in coordination with the DENR.

The list of bidders who passed the shortlisting of prospective bidders shall consider the following:

a) Applicable experience of the consultant and members in case of joint venture, considering only the overall experience of the firm or in the case of joint ventures, the individual experiences of the principals and key staff, including the times when employed by other consultants (20%);
b) Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job such as extent and complexity of the undertaking (20%); and
c) Current workload vis-a-vis capacity (20%).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR of RA 9184.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The following BAC's shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/S) procedure. The technical proposals shall carry a weight of seventy percent (70%) and the financial proposals shall carry a weight of thirty percent (30%). The bidder with the highest combined evaluation rating and which complies in the Instructions to Bidders.

The contract shall be completed within twenty four (24) months for Category "3" consultants (18 months for category "1").

The DENR XII reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive the bidding process, or to award the contract to such bidder(s) it may deem fit, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. ALBERTO U. ARGOSINO
Chief, Surveys Division
DENR Land Management Sector
Regional Government Center, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Tel. No.: (088) 856-0000 loc 4101

(Sgd.) ATTY. GIL G. ARGOSINO
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
for: Cadastral Survey Projects

(PNS) - August 16, 2010

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Randy Lois Bañas

Rico Chegarte

Notice is hereby given that the following employees have been terminated for cause effective **August 6, 2010**. Any transactions made by these persons will not be honored by the company.

CITY ADVERTISING VENTURES CORP.
Block 206 P. Martinez St., Daang Bakal, Mandaluyong City * Tel No. : 532-5400

(PS) - August 16, 2010

RENAISSANCE TOWERS 1100
BANGUN-RENOVATED CONDO
2200SQM-2PHASE
PL4M NEG.
0915-4109041 / 688-7551
renaissance@yahoo.com

ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

ROLEX

RyKreed Rent-a-Van
Latest Model
10 SEL P1,300
with driver
382-7790
0908-8524836

Advertise in Job Market Libre
Regular ad only P600 Max. 35 w
Get more exposure for your ad

FOR LEASE
COMMERCIAL SPACE

More Classifieds on pages

Samar I Elec. Coop.	A23
Securities and Exchange Commission	A39
BCDA	B19
PITC	B19

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
FOR STOCKHOLDER'S MEETINGS, INVITATION TO BID, DEPARTMENT ORDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, ADVERTISE IN THE INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS!
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARIES

PRIMITIVO "*Pete*" CASTILLO MONTERO

18 July 1939 - 12 August 2010

Pete Montero, beloved husband, father, brother, teacher and mentor
died on 12 August 2010 due to cerebral aneurysm.

He is survived by wife Carmen, daughters Giselle and Erika, granddaughters Cheyenne, son-in-law Niko, and siblings and in-laws Maria, Rose, Bunny and Narcing, Bobing and Lulu, Nonoy and Mila.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapel in Panacan, Davao City and will be brought to Surigao del Sur on Tuesday, 17 August.

Interment will be in his hometown in Bislig City on Friday, 20 August.

Please pray for his eternal repose.

Engr. Bernardo Padua Ayende

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 11, 2010 at the age of 44.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 306, Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue. Interment will be on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

"...please walk the body as he passes until the End."
– 2 Corinthians 5:8

MAGDALENA DORADO KAHOY

Passed away to the Arms of the Lord on
August 12, 2010 at the age of 72.

Family and friends repeat the invite to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Committal rites on August 17, 2010, 11:00 A.M. at the Loyola Crematory, Marikina after the 9:00 A.M. mass at Loyola Memorial Chapel.

In loving memory of our Dearest MOTHER

Betty Manuarii Albano – Instrella

of Antipas, La Union
(January 29, 1932 to August 14, 2010)

Widow of the late **Dr. Reynaldo L. Instrella**

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park Chapel, Marikina City. Interment will be in Tinoc, Ifugao on Monday, August 16, 2010 after 11:00 a.m. Internment follows on Friday, August 20, 2010 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

The children **Hugo, Renato, Rowena, Rebecca Rowena, Reynaldo, Ramon, Rosalyn, Renaris, Reynaldo II**

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die." – John 11:25-26

AZUCENA VICTA GAVINO

July 17, 1928 – August 14, 2010

Who peacefully joined our Creator on the 14th of August 2010 at the age of 82.

The Gavino family requests the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Marikina City.

Funeral mass at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 18, 2010 and thereafter follows right after at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Fed move seen boosting emerging market bonds

NEW YORK/LONDON—Emerging market bonds are poised to be one of the best performing asset classes this year as renewed US monetary stimulus boosts the divergence between the markets' double-digit returns and lackluster equities.

Sovereign dollar bonds have already gained 12 percent on JPMorgan's benchmark indexes in 2010, as cash-loaded investors fled near-zero G7 yields but avoided the volatility of stocks.

In contrast, MSCI's emerging stock index has posted flat returns, while other asset classes such as commodities have also trailed EM debt, giving up most of their gains this year.

The divergence may grow in coming months.

By choosing to reinvest proceeds from its maturing mortgage holdings into Treasury bonds, the US Federal Reserve has kicked down the road plans to exit the unprecedented monetary stimulus delivered during the crisis. That's leading investors to expect more outsized measures to support the economy – and so-called risk assets.

That got one of your sands...key a trustee, buy a 10-year bond, buy emerging market debt, buy another currency. That's the message from the Fed," said Eric Fine, who helps manage $20.5 billion with New York-based bond manager WestAM Global.

Admittedly, markets' knee-jerk reaction has been to cut risk, as growth fears have increased in the aftermath of the Fed moves.

Emerging market bonds remained resilient, however.

Sovereign debt returns remained stable while emerging market stocks dropped nearly 4 percent since Fed day.

The liquidity provided by the Fed is a "comfort blanket" for investors and "hugely positive" for emerging markets, said Vishal Bashir, head of global and macro strategy for HSBC Asset Management, with $90 billion invested in emerging markets.

"What's evident is an ongoing reversal of shift in asset allocation that favors emerging markets. In the current environment, when people are concerned about growth slowing, it should boost emerging fixed-income more than stocks," he said.

Despite robust growth in emerging markets, opportunities companies will certainly look the impact of next US slowdown.

That makes investors wary of buying equity allocations.

Data from fund tracker EPFR Global shows flows to emerging equity funds in the first half of 2010 were just over a third of levels seen in the previous six months. Bond fund flows, however, rose by a third and are on record levels.

Reuters

PNB

"Maximize your Dollar and Peso Growth Potential"

Investment Funds of Pioneer Life Investment Linked Insurance	Valuation Date (in $/US)	Valuation Date (in Php)
PNB AC Dollar Bond Fund	1.4736	1.4755
PNB AC Global Bond Fund	1.3351	1.3380
PNB AC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.2784	1.2811
PNB AC Peso Equity Fund	1.4799	1.4835
PNB AC Balanced Fund	1.1659	1.1722
Principal Protect 1	1.0865	0.9744
Principal Protect 2	1.0341	1.0361
Principal Protect 3	1.0017	0.9651
Preferred Yield Protect	1.0096	1.0151

US consumers' credit scores soar

NEW YORK—US consumers have tightened their belts to the point where they could take on a lot more debt if they wanted it.

But they don't.

The average credit score rose to 704 in July, a level not seen since the first quarter of 1995, according to data that Equifax Inc., one of the largest U.S. credit bureaus, provided exclusively to Reuters.

That means lenders consider consumers to be on the upward credit risks and would be happy to have more of them as customers. For many consumers still seem to find debt too risky, said Brian Adams, an Equifax executive.

"Traditionally, when you see a shift or a recession is that consumers are the engine on the way to economic growth," Adams said. "Here it looks like they're the caboose."

The data is based on Equifax' 200-million plus files of US consumers using credit. The credit risk score forecasts the likelihood a consumer will fall 90 days or more behind on debt within two years, with 850 the highest score.

The higher the score, the less likely a borrower will fall behind on debt.

A decline in debt answered the rise in credit scores.

July saw total consumer debt outstanding fall to $2.6 trillion from a peak of $2.13 trillion in October of 2008.

Consumer debt includes mortgages and credit cards. The savings rate rose to 6.4 percent in June from 4.6 percent in May, the highest level since June of last year.

"The big question is whether that money moves back into the economy," Adams said.

That protracted reluctance on the part of consumers to take out debt and spend will in turn be cushioned to severe recovery.

Even after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York City's World Trade Center, spending remained and home values stable, Adams said, adding he doubts the unemployment numbers will drop to the low teens.

In the meantime, US consumers are frustrating their economies in front of spending on items big or small.

Demand for home loans rose the week of Aug. 6, but only by less than 1 percent, even though 30-year loan rates fell to 4.57 percent, the lowest in 20 years of recording keeping by the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Even everyday indulgences are less in favor.

Revolving balances on bank-issued credit cards have fallen to 2005 levels, to $711.9 billion in July from a peak of $803.7 billion in October 2008.

Reuters

GO Get Gadgets

LEXMARK

Buy Lexmark Printers

Lexmark Pro208 P 11,995

Lexmark X4850 P 8,995

Lexmark X6650 P 27,995

Lexmark X264 P 11,995

OPTIMUS

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO SUBMIT COMPARATIVE PROPOSALS

Selection of BCDA's Joint Venture Partner for the Privatization and Development of the approximately 33.1-hectare BASI PHILIPPINE AUTOMOTIVE Properties in Bonifacio South

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) as lead implementing Private Sector Entities (PSEs) is participating in the Selection of BCDA's Joint Venture (JV) Partner for the Privatization and Development of the approximately 33.1-hectare BASI PHILIPPINE AUTOMOTIVE Properties in Bonifacio South, Taguig City (the "Property") with a Minimum Present Value (minimum present value) Bonus rate of Pesos. Thirty-six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Million (P36,950,000,000.00) (the "Minimum Bid Amount"), and envisaged to unlock the development from BMC and, inc. to subject joint venture development of the property and now wishes to subject the same to a competitive challenge process, pursuant to the "Guidelines for Competitive Challenge Procedure for Public Private Joint Venture Projects" (the "Guidelines and Procedures for Entering into Joint Venture (JV) Agreements Between Government and Private Entities" issued by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Interested PSEs may participate in the Competitive Challenge procedure for BCDA's joint venture partnership by submitting their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ), pursuant to the Guidelines, for a non-refundable fee of P5 Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for Volume 1 – Eligibility Documents, which outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable PSEs to apply for eligibility and be declared eligible to the Competitive Challenge. Only eligible PSEs shall be allowed to submit Technical and Financial Proposals for the JV development of subject Property. Once declared eligible, the PSEs may purchase Volume 2 – Tender Documents, for a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), which details the Technical and Financial Proposal requirements. The fees for the Tender Documents shall be waived for PSEs that simultaneously buy an eligible private sector entities on a later date coinciding with the issuance of the Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility to the participating private sector entities.

A Pre-eligibility Conference among interested PSEs relative to this declaration is tentatively set on 03 September 2010 (Tue) 10:00 a.m., also at the BCDA Corporate Center. The objectives of the Conference is to discuss the Property, the TOR, and other clarifications from interested PSEs.

Interested private sector entities can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN

Joint Venture Selection Committee for the Selection of BCDA's Joint Venture Partner for the Privatization and Development of the approximately 33.1-hectare BASI PHILIPPINE AUTOMOTIVE Properties in Bonifacio South

BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email address: dpcantiga@bcda.gov.ph or bfranklin@bcda.gov.ph

Or they can contact Mr. Diomi L. Santiago or Ms. Franklin L. Abalos at telephone numbers 818-9696 or 818-5043.

(Sgd.) ALEXIS M. R. DOMA
Chairman
Joint Venture Selection Committee

(PNB – August 13 & 16, 2010)

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION

PITC

dti

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HARDDISTE AUDIO-VISUAL AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND)
Bid Ref. No. 2010 – 048

Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 6,287,500.00

1. The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) and the Department of National Defense (DND) intend to apply the sum of Php 6,287,500.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for purchase of Harddiste Audio-Visual and Communication Equipment for the Department of National Defense more particularly described as follows:

Item No.	Qty	Description	Unit Price	Total Amount	Net Security Cash Bond, Cashier's/ Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guaranty Letter of Credit (LOC) (5%)	Performance Security Surety Bond (30%)	Unit Price of the Deliverable (with payment range)
1	1 unit	Digital Camera	30,000.00		1,500.00	9,000.00	NO
2	1 unit	Laser Jet Printer	80,000.00		4,000.00	24,000.00	NO
3	3 unit	DVD Player/Home Theater	12,500.00		468.75	1,406.25	NO
4	1 unit	DVD Player/Home CD/Laserdisc Player/Karaoke	5,000.00		175.00	1,050.00	NO
5	1 unit	Digital Camera	25,000.75		1,250.00	7,500.00	NO
6	1 unit	Document Scanner	96,750.00		4,837.50	29,025.00	NO
7	1 unit	Multi-Card Reader	30,000.00		1,500.00	9,000.00	NO
8	1 lot	Computer Accessories (Laptop Battery, Wireless Mouse/Keyboard)	16,000.00		800.00	4,800.00	NO
9	1 unit	Storage Device (Hard Disk)	10,000.00		500.00	3,000.00	NO
10	1 unit	Multimedia Projector	150,000.00		7,500.00	45,000.00	NO
11	1 unit	Digital Camera (SLR)	50,000.00		2,500.00	15,000.00	NO
12	1 unit	Digital Camera	15,000.00		750.00	4,500.00	NO
13	1 unit	DVD/CD Player/Recorder	10,000.00		500.00	3,000.00	NO
14	1 unit	Digital Video Camera/Recorder (Camcorder)	15,000.00		750.00	4,500.00	NO
15	1 unit	Digital Video Camera/Recorder	15,000.00		750.00	4,500.00	NO
16	1 unit	Digital Video Camera/Recorder	15,000.00		750.00	4,500.00	NO
17	3 units	TV Tuner and Camera Card	3,000.00		150.00	900.00	NO
		TOTAL	6,287,500.00				

*Only those issued and certified by Land Transportation Commission/Land Transportation Office/Bureau of Customs

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening and bids shall not be accepted.

3. PITC and DND are inviting bids from Eligible Bidders who are authorized business operations and registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS). Bidders are advised to submit their bids in accordance with the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Prospective Bidders should have completed within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) single contract of similar nature amounting to at least fifty (50) of ABC, or each item belonging to, or subscribed to at least fifty (50) of ABC for all items belonging to.

5. Bidders complete bidding will be conducted using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders are required to submit the following documents: Valid and Current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located, or the equivalent document for Exclusive Economic Zones or Areas; Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); Valid and Current Certificate of Registration and Membership in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) pursuant to Section 8.5.2 of the IRR of R.A. 9184; Bidder's Omnibus Sworn Statement (Revised) as prescribed in Annex I of the IRR of R.A. 9184; and Duly signed Contract Agreement.

6. Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the dates below upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the PITC, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the date of Pre-Bid Conference.

7. The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	TIME	VENUE
Sale and Issuance of Bid Documents	8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday, starting August 16, 2010	PITC Executive Building, 316 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Tindalo St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Pre-Bid Conference (open only to prospective bidders who have purchased the documents)	10:00 am, August 30, 2010	PITC Executive Building, 316 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Tindalo St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Submission and Opening of Bids	2:00 pm, September 1, 2010	PITC Executive Building, 316 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Tindalo St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

8. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address and may visit the Procurement Section, Ground Floor, PITC Executive Building, 316 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Tindalo St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Alternatively, Bidders may call the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 818-9744 or fax no. 892-4766. Prospective bidders are also enjoined to be present at the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference, where the project requirements can also be made by bidders. Bidders may also forward their written queries not later than two (2) days prior to the Submission and Opening of Bids.

9. PITC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any deficiency therein, and to accept all bids as they may deem to be in the best interest of the Government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. VICTORIA G. MANGUIAT
Chair, BAC Executive Committee

Postings on August 13-15 (PITC Website)
(PITC Website: www.pitc.gov.ph & PITC Bulletin Board)

(DTI-August 13 & 16, 2010)

BUSINESS

Lawsuit may signal era of Oracle, Google tensions

SAN FRANCISCO—Leading Web-search provider Google Inc. and No. 2 business software maker Oracle Corp. are not usually viewed as business rivals.

But a patent dispute between the two technology companies suggests they are each other as exactly that.

Oracle, led by its brash chief executive Larry Ellison, filed a lawsuit on Thursday that accuses Google's increasingly popular Android mobile technology of violating patents that protect Oracle's Java software.

The move pits two of Silicon Valley's most successful companies against each other, as they expand beyond their traditional turf in search of new growth opportunities.

Oracle bought the Java programming language through its acquisition of Sun Microsystems in January, gaining exposure to the fast-growing mobile phone industry, where Google's Android mobile software is growing market share.

And Google, led by former Sun chief technology officer Eric Schmidt, is gradually gaining momentum in the enterprise computing market, where Oracle currently dominates.

Over the past five years, Schmidt has pushed Google to aggressively develop cloud-computing products for businesses, at a time when Oracle sees moving more customers into the new space. Cloud computing systems process information over the Internet, storing data at remote facilities instead of local computer systems.

The two emerging rivals are also joining to expand sales of their technology to the consumer electronics market. Reuters

Aruna Bhat, Pacific Group Director and Marketing Director of the Coca-Cola Company Philippines, top right, awarded with the ... by the CMO Asia Awards | www.cmoasia.org | last 31 of July 2017 in Singapore

The CMO Asia Awards are first of its kind accolades recognizing Organizations, Chief Marketing Officers and Professionals who have shown leadership in building brands combined with consistent of business and strategic marketing.

The CMO Asia is dedicated to high level knowledge exchange through thought leadership and peer networking amongst visionary market service industry regionally in Asia. The CMO Asia Awards is represented by 10 countries across Asia.

Criteria is based upon:
a) Strategy - perception, reflect how organization and external perception in the public domain is balanced on credibility, brand image and contribution to the economy.
b) Track record of organization's performance and Financial results.
c) Values, integrity and work ethic culture are essential components.

Germany posts best growth

Europe goes past the US

BRUSSELS—Germany posted its best growth since reunification on Friday, driving Europe past the United States in a fourth-year record but analysts warned of a recovery that may be peaking out.

With 2.2-percent growth between April and June, Germany was "playing in a league of its own," according to Brussels-based ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

After suffering its worst post-war recession in 2009, "we are now experiencing SL growth," Germany Minister Rainer Brueduele said, the best since 1990, when Germany was reunited after a 45-year Cold War division.

However, Chris Williamson of London-based Markit economics urged that German manufacturers were relying export sales because concerns about weaker Machtenomic policies were helping to keep the euro down.

"It remains to be seen if the buoyancy of the eurozone's core spills over to the periphery or whether the periphery drags the core down," Williamson said.

Frankfurt-based Commerzbank analyst Christoph Stiel maintained that the German growth, routinely described as "stellar," was driven by strong demand abroad and low interest rates.

The 1 percent expansion across the 36 eurozone nations, and also the 27-member European Union as a whole, was "the sharpest in four years," Jennifer McKeown of London-based Capital Economics said.

After managing just 0.2 percent in the first quarter, growth here between Jan 0.7 percent and outpaced that of the US, which posted a quarterly gain of 0.6 percent—down from 0.9 percent between January and March.

But while Stockholm-based Nick Kounis of ABN Amro said worries over a "double-dip" recession now seem "on the other side of the Atlantic," he admitted the overall picture could be "misleading."

Spending rose in almost all countries will make the road "bumpy" and "long," he stressed, adding that "the deepening of Greece's recession is a timely reminder."

Greece's economy shrank 1.5 percent in the second quarter after Q1 percent in the first as austere cuts agreed with the EU and the International Monetary Fund in exchange for a massive bailout kept hit home.

On the upside, Britain posted a 1.1-percent expansion and France—Europe's biggest economy after Germany—0.6 percent, providing welcome relief after recession last year of 2.5 percent. AFP

US retail sales rebound; worries linger

WASHINGTON—US retail sales rebounded in July but showed hints of lingering economic softness, as did inflation data showing underlying price pressures stuck at their lowest level since the 1960s.

The reports on Friday offer the latest evidence that the US economy has slowed considerably in recent months, but were sufficiently firm to dispel, for now, fears of a renewed downturn.

Economist sentiment appeared to have stabilized in August following a sharp drop in July, while business investment rose more than analysts had been expecting.

"Consumers are still anxious, but it is not double-dip material," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers' preliminary August reading of consumer sentiment rose to 80.6 from the final July reading of 87.8.

Retail sales climbed 0.6 percent last month, following a revised 0.3-percent drop in June and below forecasts for a 0.5-percent gain.

Higher energy costs did boost US consumer prices by 0.3 percent, the first rise in four months.

But prices outside food and energy climbed just 0.1 percent, leaving the year-on-year gain, a measure favored by policymakers at the Federal Reserve, at just 1.9 percent for a fourth consecutive month.

Earlier last week, Fed officials expressed some concern about deflation as they decided to offer further stimulus to the economy by using the proceeds from maturing mortgage bonds in the central bank's portfolio to buy more Treasury bonds.

Some analysts were relieved that the inflation numbers did not soften further.

The retail data revealed some potentially troubling signs.

Excluding autos, sales advanced just 0.2 percent compared with a median forecast of 0.5 percent. Gasoline stations receipts, which sometimes reflect price rises rather than increased demand, jumped 2.3 percent. When autos and gasoline were stripped out, sales actually fell 0.1 percent.

Retail sales are a key component of growth for a country where consumer spending makes up about two-thirds of total economic activity. Reuters

Editor Thelma Simon San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Offstage with Rowena Arrieta

The New York-based Filipino pianist is a 'teleserye' fan who watches the marathon airing of 'Magkaribal' on TFC

Text and photos by Leah C. Salvato
Contributor

AFTER OVER two decades of wowing audiences worldwide and winning awards for the country, Rowena Arrieta remains modest.

"There are so many brilliant artists in Asia," she says. "I wonder why they included my name."

As described by a New York Times critic, Arrieta plays with "fevered dramatic intensity and gentle, subtle introspection." Every time she strikes those ivory keys, she brings with her the virtuosity from her Moscow training.

She became the first Filipino scholar at the Moscow Conservatory of Music in 1979, and was the first Filipino laureate in the 1982 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow.

At only 18, she made history by winning

CONTINUED ON C2

ARRIETA

Jon Santos is Irma Vep –this time, not an impersonation

'I am the eternal rehearsalist,' he says. The play, directed by Ana Valdes-Lim, returns Aug. 28

By Walter Ang
Contributor

JON SANTOS is known for his stand-up comedy shows that highlight his impersonations of popular figures. In the last 19 years, he has collected a score of characters under his belt, such as Ate Vi, Banana Boom, Arrizla Sigros-Makoreyna, Shemp Espada, Shanela, Sam, Meeryam.

He will now open a new comedy role in a single show, for this time,

The way you **speak** determines the way you **live.**
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES
Study at:
VERNON TAPALLA'S
21st Year
Confidence Building • Speech
Accent Reduction • Public Speaking • Writing
Personality Over It • Vocal Training
Private Training & Corporate Training are Available

REAL HAIR, REAL RESULTS. NO GIMMICKS.
Call Us Now
706-1698
www.marcianaremfair.com
FOR A FREE AND PRIVATE CONSULTATION

UST holds international guitar festival

By Ricardo Mo. Gutierrez
Contributor

PETIT THE DUETS of Andres Segovia, the great Spanish guitarist, Spain, in a manner of speaking, has its dominance in the field of classical guitar. And soon more Japanese than Spaniards are studying the genre, Mercedes says, too.

These and other interesting facts about the guitar as an instrument of serious study emerged during the recent press conference at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which announced the forthcoming "Guitarra 2010," the international guitar festival of the University of Santo Tomas' Conservatory of Music.

This will be held Aug. 21-27. "The event is part of the quadricentennial celebration of the university in 2011.

There will be a series of master classes, lectures, forums and festival ensemble rehearsals at the UST Recital Hall 2. Those will be handed cap by concerts at Philamlife Theater (8 p.m.), Manila, on the same dates.

Tickets to the concerts and daytime activities are available at the UST Music Office (735-4022, loc. 3417 loc. 4200) and at Philamlife Theater before each evening's performances.

JOSEPH Miravalles Reyes, chair of UST's Guitar Department

UST Music dean and CCP artistic director Raul Sunico

The master classes will be handled by Angelito Aganoli, Agustin Castillo Arillo (Costa Spain), Barry Ven and Shing Peng-Jie (both from Taiwan), Manuel Cabrera II and Joseph Miranda de Reyes.

Reyes, chair of UST's Guitar Department, and the Festival Ensemble, during the press con, gave media persons a sample of what awaited the participants and audiences during the festival.

Reyes played Angel Reyes's lovely "Dungawan Mo Sinta," first composed in 1952 and translated for the guitar only last year; and a "non-Western and very different" piece by Ustinard Bayani M. de Leon, described "as probably the best Filipino guitar composition."

He followed this up with Antonio Pamenda's "Oblation," a short monorhythmical composition, and the Sevilla and more popular "Libertango," Reyes capped the program with the familiar "Recuerdos de la Alhambra."

He said the five-day festival "promises to be very interesting, as a lot of the pieces to be played are seldom heard."

UST Conservatory dean Raul Sunico (also CCP vice president and artistic director) called the guitar the Philippines' most popular musical instrument, but said the festival would bring out "the beauty of the guitar as a serious, classical instrument." He added that the guitar "is capable of more complex, more interesting sounds than we are accustomed to."

REYES and UST Guitar Ensemble perform Angel Peña's "Dungawan Mo Sinta."

Offstage with Rowena...

From page B1

fifth place and special prize for being the "youngest and most promising contestant" among the pianists from all over the world.

She dominated her Master's thesis at the Manhattan Conservatory, which she graduated from magna cum laude. She did her predoctoral studies at the Manhattan School of Music, where she was also a full scholar.

After 14 years of uninterrupted living in America, Rowena was invited to return again the invitation of her mentor and professor, Carmencita Guanzon Asunsolo, to perform in a concert offering in celebration of the latter's golden year of teaching music.

Rowena was featured in two concerts at St. Paul's College Manila, which also celebrated its diamond jubilee. In "Mrs. As Dyan," she rendered the world premiere of three original works especially written for the occasion. She studied and memorized the difficult pieces before coming to Manila.

Rowena mastered "Chasing On day" by Ryan Cayabyab; "Dahilegan Gaanoon" by Abel Asunsolo and "Poem," an original instrumental composition by Asunsolo, who composed the piece when she was only 17.

In the second suite, pianists Therese Ocampo, Jonathan Uy and a string orchestra joined Asunsolo onstage.

Second show

The second show, "E and X," saw Arriola in a piano-flute concert with Raul Sunico, with whom she has shared the stage in 1996. That year also saw Sunico and her performances in Manila at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Sunicolo wrote the Dreadful Music Studio (GBS) when they were hosted her piano playing since she was 11.

Undoubtedly a child prodigy, she was only two when she started playing the piano by ear. At last, she learned how to read notes, and at five, she could compose her own pieces.

Under Asunsolo's tutelage, Arriola also gained experience by winning First Place in Piano in the 1995 National Music Competition for Young Artists (Manila). She later became a scholar at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mindanao, Laguna.

Arriola flew halfway across the globe to participate in the concert tribute to Asunsolo. "I couldn't say no to Mrs. A," she says of her teacher.

A few days after her Manila performance, she was given a welcome dinner by Asunsolo at Gilli, where she got a chance to meet again with long time friends. Among the attendees were Louie Ocampo, Fides Asunsolo and siblings Marilou and Mel Asunsolo.

Arriola came with hubby Jonathan Delacruz, with whom she has been married for 23 years, as well as their two children, Jonah, 20, and Isabel, 9. The pianist's 61-year-old mom, Lut, was also in the dinner.

Collaboration on Apo hit

It was in the same fine season of GMS when Arriola and Ocampo collaborated on the Apo Hiking Society hit, "Sweet," which was composed by the late Boy Asunsolo. Mario Manila Popular Music festival.

Arriola wrote the lyrics while Ocampo created the music. Interestingly, the two had been so unanimously involved that have remained good friends to this day. It is said Ocampo composed "Sweet" as his song for Arriola.

That night at the dinner, Ocampo was teased by their common friends that he used to bring sweetmeats for Arriola. He hastened everyone by grabbing a bowl of cookies to offer her. "Eto oo, opuyan," he jests. And, etc's hubby, Jonathan, gamely took the jousting in stride.

Since she did her Wese York debut recital in Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center in 1995, Arriola has called the Big Apple her second home. She resides with her family on Long Island, where she also owns a music studio named after her.

Her mainly keeps her busy with over 70 students. She has been a faculty member of the National Piano Teachers Guild (USA) since 1990.

She says she still remains "very much Filipino." She boasts of her dual citizenship, which also applies to her children.

"Teaching has really changed even if I'm in New York," she says. "My kids understand Tagalog. They are raised with Filipino values. At home, they see Filipino food like lumpiang and adobo, which I cook for them."

She is a hands-on mom and is used to multi-tasking at home. "You are first and foremost a parent," she insists. "But my kids are very disciplined. Whenever they do, they do it with passion. They are not pressured to take exercise into a professional music career."

Soap-opera fan

The world-renowned pianist is also an avid soap-opera fan, she hastened to say. Her favorite is "Mula Sa Puso," starring Carmina Villaroel. She also watches the drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya (MMK)."

"On Sundays, they have this "Tunay Na Buhay" (Real Life) where they show all the episodes from Monday to Friday," Arriola says. "I also like "MMK" because it dramatizes true stories."

Since they do subscribe to DSS Tv (Dinay TV, Arriola's husband) let Jonas Studio Stylo/Nayarit."

Jon Santos is Irma Vep...

From page C1

One of Off-Broadway's longest running shows, the comedy is by Charles Ludlam, an American actor, director and playwright, who founded the Ridiculous Theatrical Company in New York City.

The play involves only two performers (other shows two actresses or two actors) with four roles each, including a werewolf, a lord and a lady a maid and a mummy.

"It really is very, very challenging as a performer," Santos says. "Especially with the accents and the running and the costume changes and a little bit of singing, too."

Start in theater

Before his entry into the stand-up comedy circuit, Santos started doing theater work with UP Repertory Company under Bobbi Carvajal, a UP college professor, Tessie Tomas and stalwarts Soxsonsons, his idols, do the rounds of political satire shows.

"My journey with the UP theater community extended even after graduation. Bobbi, Tessie and Rosie were both from UP and they both also had a love for theater, and both also had theater backgrounds," he says.

He was last seen performing in a play for Atlantis Productions, "Dogstreet," in between his theater and stand-up comedy forays back to theater, he once was a comedy club that featured the representational group Philippine Playhouse, whose founder, Nestor Jr. Torres, capped the program with the familiar "Recuerdos de la Alhambra."

He said the five-day festival "promises to be very interesting, as a lot of the pieces to be played are seldom heard."

UST Conservatory dean Raul Sunico (also CCP vice president and artistic director) called the guitar the Philippines' most popular musical instrument, but said the festival would bring out "the beauty of the guitar as a serious, classical instrument." He added that the guitar "is capable of more complex, more interesting sounds than we are accustomed to."

Italian violinist Uto Ughi enchants Manilans anew

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY hosted by ambassador Luca Fornari received a memorable celebration of Italian necessity with the return recital of violinist Uto Ughi at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Assisting artist was Alessandro Specchi.

Before the recital, Ughi had lunch with selected media persons and talked about his repertoire (Ella).

Now 66, Ughi looked back at his prodigy years (like our own Cecile Licad, he performed in public at age seven), more with amusement than with nostalgia.

He didn't want to equate success with fame and fortune. "I don't go for success equated with fame and other worldly possessions," he said.

Playing for various audiences, he talked about audience reactions and how they varied from one country to another. "In some concerts, I positively succeeded in communicating more than in previous."

He was told that when audiences didn't shout and clap loudly, it didn't mean they loved the music and the performance less. Conductor Kurt Masur (he conducted the New York Philharmonic on their last visit to Manila) said the best audiences are artist one get from an audience who don't make emotions but a quiet and meaningful reaction coming from the heart.

Both Licad and Specchi use the needle-fresh approach to music. For one, they don't approach music the same way, and they don't play it the same way even with several performances of the same program.

"We create and try to stimulate each concert in different ways with every performance," said the two Italian artists.

Wednesday night at the CCP (no words ago), Ughi and Specchi gave Manilans a new name of their exquisite artistry. He explained the "Kreutzer" Sonata with "Spring" Sonata, also by Beethoven; he played the "Abendroth" Intermezzo with Mozart's "Larmene" Fantasy; and played Paganini's "La Campanella" with gusto.

At one point, he interrupted the performance by saying: "Now, this is the part of the bill," which amused the audiences.

After a spirited rendition of Saint-Saens' "Introduzione e Rondo Capriccioso," the violinist obliged with several encores, which proved that excellent artists make excellent ambassadors of goodwill.

Licad in Shanghai

Pianist Rosemarie Licad's "Encore" Party to be played by Licad made a big splash at the Philippine Gala at the Shanghai Trade Exposition on June 9 with Senator Pimentel, Governor Joey Salceda and Philippine and Chinese officials in attendance.

Licad played the Rachmaninoff piece with a projected 1,000 screen with images of magnificent Mayon in its serene moods and its raging fit of ire. As usual, Licad filled the huge venue with her big sound and was greeted with resounding applause.

In the other program, Licad played Chopin's Ballade (no) Minor, Op. 23, and Debussy's "Estampes du Andalousie," Op. 22, Gardens du Cassoet.

Alex Cuaco, who directed the concert, reported: "Cecile was in magnificent form, and there was no doubt that she was one of the audience favorites with those shouts of 'Encore!' after every number. She took them all the time but, which is more she was of CCP with very close ones. The response was deafening."

Other performers

The other performers included Philippine Madrigal Singers (Cecile Guidote Alvarez), Madrigal Singers (Ramon Tapales) and "Mechoulam Mahler" and "Ma Si Ima," a Chinese popular song about the pairing Bawon). Ballet Philippines (Maidalisa Mc Enya" choreography by Ted Kordelas); Philippine Folk Dance Ensemble (Jesus Fuentes Glenaan Cruz, Georgy Encarnal, soprano Rachelle Gervasias "Tia Kalendarian" and "Canto Patriotico de Maria Clara"), soprano Joanna Go ("Ma Si Ima"), and guitarist Butch Sioson ("Canto Patriotico de Maria Clara, Recuerdos de la Alhambra") "Maalaala Mo Kaya").

The Shanghai show ended with speeches from Alfonso Uy, president of Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Mayor Ge Amoyo.

The Philippine Gala commemorated the Philippine National Day and 111 years of Philippine-China diplomatic relations.

The show was emceed by Julius Hwang of CNN News Bureau, Beijing, and Annie Liao, a Filipina scholar finishing her MA in Peking Opera in Beijing.

Other performers included violinist Joseph Evardo, pianist Rodolfo Galvez, and singers Jun Jurino.

The program opened with an overture especially composed for the show by Vicente Guerrero, with the PPO conducted by Chino Toledo, with dancers from the Philippine Folk Dance Ensemble.

Here and There

The concert on Aug. 21 at the Philamlife Theater will feature prize-winning cellist Victor Richard Cox, with the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina. Program includes Gounod's Friendly Symphony in D Minor, Op. 88, "Romeo and Juliet's" Fantasy Overture by Tchaikovsky; and Schumann's Cello Concerto, with Cox as soloist.

(Call 297-1811 or 0906-3134276.)

'The Literary Life' as a profession of literary faith

By Shirley G. Lua
Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINE Center of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists), in cooperation with Manila Times, launched "The Literary Life," edited by Elmer A. Ordoñez, on July 31, at Solidaridad Bookshop in Ermita, Manila.

REVIEW

This anthology comprises a selection of short stories, poems and essays published in Sunday Times Magazine from 2006 to 2007.

In his introduction to the collection, Ordoñez writes: "We have a legacy of distinguished writing in English and a vibrant community of Filipino writers who are hooked upon an assemblage to the forging of a national consciousness."

"The Literary Life" is thus a profession of literary faith, the evidence of things unseen. It is faith in the Filipino writers' sense of the past, their calling to recovery the lost and lingering threads our forebears have spun in the wind. It is faith in the enduring power of the Word, that when the Word speaks, there is light. It is faith in our core tradition of literature, which has been tried by the fires of time and times, and found to be more precious than perishable gold.

This coffer of remembrances and experiences offers candid and diverse views of harvesting in spite of the unevenness of the creative works in terms of content, style and length. A number of stories, despite their brevity, affect us, like the soft-worried radiance of the sea, or the chill of a twilight rain.

Beautifully moving

National Artist F. Sionil José's "Sampaloc" is a beautifully moving story about a brief reunion between a father and his son in an army hospital in Santa Mesa. The father is a hero and great in the Philippine army, while the son is affiliated with the insurgents. The boy has dying in the hospital room after he has been captured and tortured.

The story's strength rests in the simplicity and extensive of José's language, reminiscent of Hemingway's style. In saying little, the story touches deeply, and the readers imagine what is not said.

When the father mentions their old dog that has been "dognapped" and perhaps been someone's fare, the son replies: "It was still mine... There were stocks we did not have most at all. And when I was hungry, I dreamed of hamonado paella and beer-spotted Sunday chicken curry..."

With astonishment, we feel a sudden lump in our throat. And that is just the beginning.

"Lights" by Rodolfo del Rosario/Vencelo Ed. loses the roundup of a player in a Vegas casino, where people lose all that they have and more. The interesting twist is Filipino support in the kind of milk and honey, who attempts to support himself through college.

When he says to himself, "But I want more. Dodalawin, I want more," we know the person-cry echoes those of the multitudes of Filipinos scattered in the four winds of the earth.

Quite a few stories dwell on the coming-of-age theme, including Mars Santamorena's "Mang Ang" (Nanner Eliodor)'s "A Suitable Boy to Remember," and "Dalia" by Anthony Mark (aka Mark Sharon).

"Dalia" is a fascinating portrait of a boy's fearful efforts to stand up to his uncle, who has assumed the provider's role in the family. Particular descriptions on the practices of the Indian minority community in the Philippines reinforces the theme and reveals the narrative.

Ordoñez's "End of an Era" summarizes Manila before and during the onset of the Pacific War. Through the eyes of a boy and his family.

It vividly revives and captures the spirit of a soon to be forgotten epoch by its wealth of details, from street names (Echague, Arzumaga, Bowen) to music ("Manila Aurian De Rey," "Intermezzo over the Rainbow," "Swanee River," "Roll out the Barrel"). Even war weapons (Garand rifles, 81 mortar) to such things as Lyric Theater, Bamboo Temple, Andrews Sisters, Camilo Osias, Sanders Gardens, Flying Enterprises, air raids, open city. This story seems to be a prelude to a greater narrative of history and memory.

ANTHOLOGY editor Elmer Ordoñez (left) with authors Lilia Ramos de Leon, Dennis Aguinaldo, Aimee Loreta Bendaño and Rony Diaz, and Manila Times associate Emma Francia Ang II

Equally remarkable

The other stories in the anthology are equally remarkable in evoking the intensities of the human heart and soul. Rony Diaz's fabulous "How I Found My Calling," Jun Torres's mind-stimulating "Madness is Dead," Lilia Ramos de Leon's disturbing "Tattered Fragments of a Nightmare," Isaac Tan's sensitively rendered "The Gift."

In the poetry section, Lina Ingrid Reyes' "Two Widows Leaves" is a poignant play of leaf and leaving, its musicality is conveyed in the opening stanza: "Here your leaving unfolded me. / Web-wide ideas of leaves, / The crackle of breaking. / Undefined." Lance reacts: "Know as windy drum / The last idea's blow, / I stand / Leaning with the grave / You leave / And named Nameless."

Consider also three images and imaginings, gathered from father and mother: "woman alone. / held in the sun" (Tina Lacuesta Aquilar); two lovers who are "behind fire... in one sentence" (Virginia Moreno's, an act of invoking the "lighting-rod" and "a wild excellence of feathers" (Alejandrina Hufana); a train symmetry of "sand and sea" (Andrea Cristobal Cruz); or a maiden in "a hot summer day" (Basil Iglesia).

Aren't these, as the Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges has pointed out, "things that are poetic by merely implying a meaning"?

"The Literary Life" uncovers rare gems from its strongman, with short stories and tales from Rodrigo Aphon, Lydia Lagoon-Lim, Adriano Cristobal, Epifanio San Juan Jr., Alfrisa Pevuela Fernandez, Dennis Aguinaldo, Francisco Gojo Umana, Mark Gerard Gomez, poems from Alfredo Francia, Bebi Manalo, Gode Calleja, Immanuensa, Alla Aguilar National Artist José Garcia Villa, Gelacio Guillermo, Ichi Gonzalez, and essays from Morena Ramirez-de Leon, Anne G. Cruz, Teresita Ereneta, Gerardo Lemuel Sr., Julio Alberto Gomez, Arlie Abrera Sori, Josephine Jose Idioley, Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, Ordoñez, National Artist BVM Gonzales, Fracisco Epinola, Teresa Tallada Ali, an exceptional array of 40 swashbuckles of Philippine worldview!

"The Literary Life," stemming from its modest beginning in the literary supplement of Sunday Times Magazine, is a memory seed that has grown into a tall tree in the garden. And the birds of the air unite—and continue to come, weaving more of wonder in its branches.

"The Literary Life" is available at Solidaridad Bookshop (tel. 5235836).

National Book Store
CUT-PRICE
UP TO 75%
OFF on books*
July 30 to August 22, 2010

The Secret revealed the law of attraction.
Now, Rhonda Byrne reveals the greatest power in the universe...
THIS IS THE HANDBOOK TO THE GREATEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE –
the POWER TO HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT
AVAILABLE ON AUGUST 17
To create anything, to change anything, all it takes is just one thing... the Power.

Revealing book on Philippines' love affair with basketball to be launched

WHATEVER HAPPENED to "The Black Superman" Billy Ray Bates? What does Philippine basketball legend Kiri Reichmann have to do with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Skyhook? And what does a "Tilted Pig" have to do with basketball at all?

Rafe Bartholomew learned about all of these and much more from his three-year journey to understand the Philippines' love affair with basketball.

Now, the Fulbright scholar who covered sports mostly the country's obsession with the sport is back to launch his insightful work, "Pacific Rims: Strongmen, Ballin' in Play Plays and the Philippines' Unlikely Love Affair with Basketball."

National Book Store hosts the official Philippine launch of "Pacific Rims" on Aug. 17, 5 p.m., at NBS Powerbooks Lisbon Beside Gateway Mall and on Aug. 28, 4 p.m., at NBS Ayala Cebu.

Follow National Book Store on Facebook and Twitter for exclusive offers and contests.

National Children's Book Awards held

THE NATIONAL Book Development Board (NBDB) and the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) announced the 31st ever National Children's Book Awards recently at Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

Out of 131 children's books nominated this year, the board of judges awarded "Beast in Paintings" (Alberto Florentino) written by Elsy Tobias Papa and illustrated by Isabel Roxas; "Sawing Kalinda" (Lampara Books) written by Russell Molina and illustrated by Sergio Bumatay III; "Can We Live on Mars" (Alberto Florentino) written by Didgel Navarro-Amores and illustrated by Ben; "Lub-Dub, Lub-Dub" (Bookstack) written by Russell Molina and illustrated by Jonathan Tejido; "Pugo-Tagunat" (Visayan Books) written and illustrated by Jonathan Tejido; and "Sun Ishi'Ibre" (Adarna) written by Becky Bowen and illustrated by Jason Meras.

"Beast in Paintings" tells the story of a little girl who accompanies her mother to the market. The book takes the readers to the "hot, noisy smelly and muddy" but "fascinating and colorful" market soon from a point of view that's only three feet tall.

"Sawing Kalinda" is about a boy who anticipates every Saturday as it is the only day he can be with his father, who always has something new in store for his son in each visit.

"Can We Live on Mars?: A Book about Space" is "both educational and entertaining for kids as the threshold of adolescence. It aptly addresses children's questions about astronomy and sky function in colorful and orderly."

"Lub-Dub, Lub-Dub" clearly yet diplomatically details the attachment. National Scientist Dr. Ed Maudo from the point of view of an observer who is a child, and also tells of the child's love for her younger sister who has heart disease.

"Pugo-Tagunat" introduces readers to the landyated countryside and the surprises one can find when you care to seek them out.

Jurors were Lina Diaz de Rivera, a former reading professor from University of the Philippines and a multi-awarded children's book author; Karen Ocampo Flores, visual artist, curator and writer, and recipient of the Thirteen Artists Award from the CCP; Rene Mario Rodriguez, a former elementary level teacher at International School Manila; Maria Elena Lozano, an author and teacher of language arts with a Master's in Education from Harvard University; Cynthiann Lichauco of Education and Tarie Infante, a blogger of children's and young adult books with an MA in English Studies from University of the Philippines.

The NCBA is the first award of its kind that recognizes the country's locally published children's books, which include both works of fiction and nonfiction. This year, the NBDB and PBBY accepted nominations of books published in 2008 and 2009.

The 2010 NCBA was in partnership with Manila Bulletin and 2nd&Ten.

2GO forward... together we can get there!
Delivery & Transport • Special Services • Tracking and Customer Support • Supply Chain Solutions
2GO
Call: (+632) 528-7150
www.2GO.com.ph

Book does justice to Gus Albor's art

'Quite the best,' Arturo Luz says of Albor

GUS (ANGUSTO) Albor creates cerebral abstractions. He layers and overlaps color on his canvases with effortless accuracy, achieving gossamer transparency which takes his work beyond the material.

"Immaterial" is his aptly titled and hang-overdue book that illustrates his four-decade journey of creative metamorphosis.

Albor successfully translates immateriality from canvas to print in this book, collaborating with art critic Cid Reyes and book designer Arnan Sicetsa.

The book is conceptualized with an unerring eye for design. Each of the paintings, sculptures and drawings in it conveys the minimalism strength of Albor's work respected in the Philippines and abroad.

Karl-Heinz Stockheim, Philippine honorary consul-general for North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany, writes in the foreword: "To do justice to the work of the artist Augusto Albor, it is necessary to let people speak who have known him for years and have dealt, then, intensively with his oeuvre."

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villaluz

He continues: "The late Fernando Amorsolo, curator of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, described the artist's early phase as being preoccupied with articulating a surface with great attentiveness while his current journeys is directed toward the metaphysical."

Arturo Luz says it all: "Augusto Albor is quite simply the best that the Philippines has to offer."

"A champagne of a coffee-table book was popped at the Alliance Française last Tuesday (Aug. 10)," wrote Ambassador José Alberto Zalde of the recently launched book.

And like the finest champagne, "Immaterial" is to be savored and enjoyed.

"C FOR Climate Change"

"RADIATION"

Arts residency in France

Alliance Française de Manille announces the Philippine Artist Residency Program offering is structured 2-3 months' stay in France for qualified Filipino visual artists-painters, sculptors, photographers, installation and media artists.

One residency is available annually. Conceived as a professional opportunity rather than a project-based grant, the program consists of a financial grant that covers travel and living expenses.

To stimulate maximum interaction between Filipino and French artists, residency in France will be hosted by either a bona-fide nonprofit cultural organizations; an art school, museum; or an artist-run initiative.

Application deadline is on Oct. 31. For more information, visit the Alliance Française website at www.alliance.ph

E-mail feedback to prish.place@gmail.com.

Marikina art gallery opens

GALLERY Joni recently opened at 67 Gil Fernando Ave. in Barangay San Roque, Marikina City.

A swanky art exhibition space on the second level of Bld Bldg, the 120-sq m Gallery Joni is Marikina's first full-time art gallery.

"Hommage to Manansala" is the gallery's inaugural exhibit. It showcases the works of National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Bienvenido Abueva, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz and José Joya, as well as those of Dominador Castañeda, Fred Baza Perez and Carlos Fadrigo Jr.

Nicolosi Cartagena-Dayo curated.

The exhibit is organized by Studiomates, a group of former classmates and graduates from the UP College of Fine Arts, led by business artist-cartoonist Jun Abueva and Alice Alfaro-Joel, the artist-entrepreneur who owns the gallery.

The exhibition runs until Aug. 27.

Benjie Lontoc comes home in a bar

By Tats V. De Jesus
Contributor

NOTHING TO DO with alcoholic drinks but there's something about exhibits in a bar that makes Cebu-based Filipino visual artist Benjamin Parejas Lontoc Jr. feel at home.

He has an ongoing solo show titled "Chamber Drawings" at Mag'Sri Kanja, his latest after 11 years.

All done in his signature black-and-white, Lontoc will successfully traverses the surreal and philosophical, with the human face as main subject.

The last solo gig he did was in 1999, "Mental Eclipse" at the now-closed Blind Tiger Ipsum Bar on Sharpe Avenue, Quezon City. Owned by poet Hilda Kilis, Blind Tiger was a favorite hang-out of the literary crowd besides the usual pals having suds and fish employees of government offices around the QC Memorial Circle.

It's not a mystery anymore but with this kind of "starving-artist" audience, Lontoc's canvases—black-and-white paintings, done in acrylic on wood and oil on canvas, stayed on pristine wall spaces. Then again, Lontoc was not here on selling his paintings.

For friends

"They're there for my friends, workmates and the occasional people in appreciation," we recall Lontoc as saying in Blind Tiger, which folded up after a few months when a videoke machine was installed at the main attraction.

For his friends, Lontoc has been known as a generous beer-mate; a fan of Beatles' classic records and a devotee of rock music, especially Bob Dylan.

Lontoc was then editorial cartoonist for the now-defunct Today and much earlier, had drawn for Manila Chronicle, Newsday and Jingle Magazine, all now part of Philippine media's, well, yesterday.

As a painter, he has earned his stripes, having won Grand Prize in the painting competition of the Art Association of the Philippines in 1981, and joined dozens of group exhibits here and abroad, most notably in China.

But remember, as Blind Tiger, Lontoc's all black-and-white works had the disintegrating human face as a central figure, sometimes with a skull, as a metaphor for massive corruption in the government (Imay's time), terrorism, armed conflict in the countryside, widespread poverty—topics he had to wait and make sense of, almost 365 days a year.

For daughter

Lontoc left the Philippines on Dec. 6, 2003, to join his Cebu-based common-law partner and daughter.

"I thought it was a vacation only for two months (yes saging talap talap na," he recalls.

Considered one of the most powerful and quarrel-some political cities in the world, Cebu really became second home for Lontoc.

In the messy biosphere while doing certain odd jobs on the side, Lontoc was lifted from the daily grind of doing editorial cartoons and was able to concentrate on painting. Gone were the images of corrupt politicians and wrestle-with-life-and-talk-to-oil-paints.

He shifted to ink and pastel on paper by necessity and since he had a daughter, he was startled the smell of paint thinner might be toxic for her.

His subjects have become more defined; yes, the faces are more recognizable. His choice of colors remains black and white, securing limited hues with an eye winning as rounded by a barbed-wire-like contraption.

But they're not mere splatters or scratch-n-sniff paint and ink as commonly used by many young painters fixated on the distorted face or the human skull, mostly meant to disturb or scare, though unsuccessfully.

He could have Freddy Kruger for a sit-down portraiture session and make his face look like a pinball version of fanged cosmetic surgery.

Gone again

In after 11 years, it took diverse painter-entrepreneur Rick Dillon, owner of Mag'Sri Kanja, to convince Lontoc to have another solo show in the Philippines.

He missed the opening Dec 10, we were there exactly two weeks ago as Lontoc's works and, coincidentally, it's the Happy Hour/no poetry night, a gathering of "hooper-artists of the seldom read".

There was good old rock music, the right amount of drinks, poetry readings and images of depressing Russian winter which accompanied our viewing experience.

Lontoc left for Cebu two Thursdays ago, that Mag'Sri Kanja before those gains his lose their creative and would be gone again for a decade. "Chamber Drawings" runs until Aug. 15 at the second floor gallery, where the bar is.

Mag'Sri Kanja is at 205 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, in front of Ateneo de Gallego's main gate. Or visit www.facebook.com and www.magsrigallerie.com.

"HISTORY Retreat"

"BROKEN Mirror"

Sun Cellular's SuperLoaded Powers Up John Lloyd's Mobile Lifestyle

John Lloyd Cruz, one of the country's most bankable stars with one blockbuster movie after another, is taking another high note in his career. Now a member of the Sun family, the Superloaded partnership is sure to evolve the mobile landscape. It doesn't end a product in the form, instead, Sun Cellular once again moves ahead of the game with the launch of Sun Superloaded.

Sun Cellular and John Lloyd Hook Up

With everything moving faster than before, John Lloyd is faced with the challenge of staying efficiently and seamlessly with the demands of his entertainment career and inspiring the fans needs without sacrificing his personal space.

That's why he is so happy to belong to the Sun network. It's a one-on-one choice of good news for receivers this year.

"Sun Cellular is one of the most exciting things that happened to me," he openly said. In fact, it's not the network I used to have. I feel that the network generates calls for co-subscribers with its value-added products like the free text and calls promotion, the no load and call guarantee. I can just feel unlimited Superloaded. It gives me the biggest, most powerful and most affordable mobile phone service that remains unbeatable today," he said. "The perfect match for any Sun user. The Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Cruising at Stake

John Lloyd shares his passion is at an all time high with a string of blockbusters to his name. It is quite obvious with friends which explains the John's cool "Sad Philosophy" (Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with 24 free texts to all networks and the Sun. P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Cruising at Stake

John Lloyd shares his passion is at an all time high with a string of blockbusters to his name. It is quite obvious with friends which explains the John's cool "Sad Philosophy" (Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with 24 free texts to all networks and the Sun. P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Cruising at Stake

John Lloyd shares his passion is at an all time high with a string of blockbusters to his name. It is quite obvious with friends which explains the John's cool "Sad Philosophy" (Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with 24 free texts to all networks and the Sun. P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Cruising at Stake

John Lloyd shares his passion is at an all time high with a string of blockbusters to his name. It is quite obvious with friends which explains the John's cool "Sad Philosophy" (Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with 24 free texts to all networks and the Sun. P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Cruising at Stake

John Lloyd shares his passion is at an all time high with a string of blockbusters to his name. It is quite obvious with friends which explains the John's cool "Sad Philosophy" (Sun P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with 24 free texts to all networks and the Sun. P100 Call and Text unlimited (P100 valid for 1 day) is packed with a whole day of Sun's unlimited calls and texts that I can use to connect to anyone under the Sun. That's what I enjoy FREE. It's easy to offer networks. I can now get the best of both worlds. I am in control and I enjoy that people in my life, whether they use Sun or not," he added.

Paper aesthetics

By Walter Ang
Cook Basics

IMPOSE AND the many forms it can take, is celebrated in Yuchengco Museum's current exhibit "Pamapaper: Art in Paper," which features the works of seven artists, artisans and designers who explore paper in a range of expressions.

The exhibit is juxtaposed inside the cleverly. The walls are covered in ocean-inclusive of paper pads. When the doors open on the third floor, visitors are welcomed by an explosion of paper in one hanging in mid-air.

The installation "Suspended Garden," by Ito Pineda and Jose Gonzales is arranged in a circular pattern anchored by a mat of rolled-up newspapers. Guests are encouraged to walk through a swath in the middle of the dangling leaves and to lie down on the mat to view the seeds from the floor.

This composition allows for other vantage points (say looking down at it from the third-floor balcony, or circling it from the sides) and is a wonderful endeavor that plays with texture, shape, perspective, scale and more, given its realistic-looking stones that float just so, in configurations which create the illusion of one rigid column, and the play of small elements which comprise the immense whole.

BY ASAKO Shimura

Movement II

Pamela orpiano the installation's numerous of using detailed techniques to build a hyper-scaled piece in her exhibited works, affiliated with Movement 6, the Filipino design advocacy group, and a consistent battle toward winners, she showcases the dynamics of paper with broad cross-sections of tightly coiled paper strips.

Gonzales weaves the installation's aspect of shape and form through paper infused with leaves, wires and seeds, first molded into wide sheets with threaded sculptures.

The couple has been working as paper artists and paper-based product designers for decades. When approached by the museum to exhibit, they opened the floor for other artists to join them.

Printmaker Pandy Aviado, a pioneer in the use and production of handmade paper in art, has collages that call to mind steampunk.

Japanese designer and papermaker Wasuke Sakuma plays up the fibrous element of paper by crosscutting pulp strands (so carving involved) that have dried into delicate-looking spiderwebs, lacelines and a sweet magical filmsite.

The works refuse re-workers to the idea that paper is something that has to be flat or tubular.

Sakuma has an installation, "Secret," that uses floor-to-ceiling sheets of hole-ridden paper against a light source to showcase the material's ephemeral nature.

Sculptor Jerry Pinpin, who often works with stone, stainless steel and glass, captures motion and volume with pleated strips of colored paper positioned to curves and waves.

Joey Cabrales combines his passions in painting, printmaking and woodworking to create a series of paper fossils called "Fumphsen."

Utilitarian art

Art can also be useful, the exhibit seems to declare. After all, the artistic use of fibers from abaca, sisiga, cogon and raffia has made Philippine-made paper unique, particularly in paper crafts, Christmas décor, gifts, novelties for the global market.

Fabric samples are treated from handmade paper threads. Master papermaker Asao Shimura has assembled samples of the fabric called shifu (via dyed kimonos and weaves) as well as the implements involved in making it.

Books on bigger than the palm of your hand are also on display from the miniature-book artists who makes paper out of jaba fiber.

Also on exhibit are limited-edition calendars created by Gonzales and Pineda with German designer and artist Inge Stern; for this festival gifts-and-home-accessories company Thermal Rainy Weltmeisterbier GmbH & Co. the latest calendar, "Spirit of Paper," entered a gold prize at the 84th International Calendar Show in Stuttgart, Germany earlier this year.

Paper can also be used as mediums of for instruction. Students from the School of Business and the Arts taking up Advanced Imaging under Iskra Grembalin have created contests using paper in silhouettes ranging from Victorian England to Old World Filipino.

The exhibit ends with another interactive component, "Paper Play," where visitors can tap into their inner artist and create their own paper art.

To complement the exhibit, the museum will offer a series of public programs such as workshops and family art activities. Topics include Paper Crafts for People of All Ages, Handmade Papermaking, and International Design Trends in Paper.

BY NATALIE Sakuma

"Pamapaper: Art in Paper" runs until Nov. 6 at Yuchengco Museum (RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Gamboa Avenues, Makati City). Call 889-1234 or visit www.yuchengcomuseum.org.

Visual Arts

From page C1

cosmopolitan centers as Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, the US, France, Germany, Thailand and Israel. Ayala Museum is at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Street in Greenbelt Park, Makati City. Call 7577117 to 21 local 29, e-mail info.ayalamuseum@ayalamuseum.org, www.ayalamuseum.org.

Yuson at Manila Contemporary

Ang Kiukok's new works for Manila Contemporary can be on his made on defining spaces and, in turn, dissecting preconceptions of our experiences of familiar spaces, in "Colors," he takes on the challenge of taking in Manila Contemporary's cavernous space—the very characteristic which he observed has confounded many artists and guests alike through the last seven the gallery has been in operations along the Pasong Tamo shopping strip. Manila Contemporary is at 2/F Whittier place, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. E-mail info@manilacontemporary.com.

DMST Heritage Center

Duet opens Heritage Center

The Municipality of Daet, capital town of Camarines Norte, recently opened the Casa de Ilustrados Daet Heritage Center, which will house the artifacts, historical documents, the artistic and literary products of Daetenos, and memorabilia of prominent personalities from the town. Built in hardwood during the American era, the building used to be the home presidencia (municipal hall) and police station of Daet. The Center is also being envisioned to house the Fernando Amorsolo National Museum in honor of the late great National Artist for Painting who hails from the town. The inauguration of the Heritage Center coincided with the oath-taking of re-elected Mayor Tito Sarion and members of the Sangguniang Bayan, and the launch of the Department of Trade and Industry's Trade Exhibit and Duet on the Boulevard Forum last June 30.

Budget Box from Manila to Visayas, ₱369 lang!
No need to buy your own balikbayan box! Pwede up to 50kg!
Available for Day 6 service only • Subject to VAT and other charges
Call (+632) 528-7136
www.2GO.com.ph
2GO

Windows® Life without Walls™
Gateway recommends Windows 7.

VISION

Fashion Meets Technology

EC13N01i

LT2203i/LT2204i

Gateway

EASTWESTBANK

Simply spend ANYWHERE with your EastWest Bank Credit Card and get FREE treats from

Red Ribbon

Minimum single-receipt purchase of only P1,000

Minimum single-receipt purchase of P2,000

Minimum single-receipt purchase of P6,000

Don't have a card? Apply now.
Call 888-1700
Click www.eastwestbanker.com

'Loop' art exhibit presents cast of magical creatures

"LOOP" THE 7TH solo exhibition of painter and illustrator Jill Bermeo Pantaleo, opens today at Lyd Gallery.

Pantaleo's images include the mermen, nikhalang, dwende, dragon, changeling, tree spirits, mermaid, and other happy half-human hybrids dancing out of the depths of a decidedly loopy mind, defying gravity, logic, form and time, and toiling a merry ere two.

Jill is a longtime member of Ang Ilustrador ng Enkanto (Ang Ink), an organization of children's book illustrators.

The exhibit opens today, Aug. 16, and runs until Aug. 21. "Loop" is the farewell offering of Lyd Gallery before it reopens its doors as Looking for Juan Gallery this September. The gallery is located at the 2/L, Shops at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City. Call 903 2332.

Visual Arts

Silom at Ricco Perezo

"My Secret Garden," exhibit featuring works by Miguel Augusto Silom runs until Aug. 28 in Ricco/Maria Salinas A Cafe (UB Business Plaza, 210 Maxima Garcia St. former Reyes, Bel Air 2, Makati cell 0905343 or 0921-5244012, www.riccomaria.com). The series is a collection and recollection of what gives inspiration, pleasure and peace of mind. Also on view is "Dreamscapes" by Regina Pano.

Group exhibit at Arena

"Pull D'String/Shop" group exhibit opens on Aug. 17 in Galleria Arena (G2, 4th level, SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong) and runs until Aug. 31. Featured artists are Jonas Balquin, Leo Pojo, Hannah Dot, Keith Perez, JC Jacinto, Richard Montes and Ivan Orcajo.

'Bare Tactics' at Blanc

"Bare Tactics," a photography show by Ina Limpoco and Rachel Rillo, runs until Aug. 28 in Blanc Peninsula (The Peninsula Manila, Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati) cell 0920-9278330 www.blanc.ph.

Showing at the Blanc Compound (208 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong) is "Pensamiento," showcasing works by the Arnim Shedrapsky Collective.

"SALAMBAO" 1.0x
Group de Leon Amrado

Paper art exhibit

"Smallmag," the second solo exhibition of paper cuts by Group de Leon, is on view in Kiss the Cook Gourmet (G-8 Ridgemont St., UP Village, QC). De Leon, a Philippine Studies graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman (with double majors in anthropology and art studies), has been doing paper cuts since age 7. For the first time she is using Philippine handmade paper from the Bato Producers Association. Show runs until Aug. 19.

Budji Layug at Ayala

The well-known designer and architecture team of Budji Layug and Royal Peneda will speak about their philosophy and practice at the next Design Talks event at Ayala Museum on Aug. 23. Known as "the complete designer," Budji Layug studied at UST and New York School of Design. He designs interiors, furniture and landscaping. Layug and Peneda are the creative team behind Budji Royal Design Architects incorporating their holistic approach to design with each aspect integral to a shared vision. Their styles has been categorized as Asian Tropical. Their projects have taken them to such-

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto S. Velarde

Others daydream, she cooks!

JESSICA GARCIA, on how she can tell that her mom Jean (in photo) is in love: "She's always cooking and singing out to me. That's a mom sign."

OVERHEARD

■ **Film on 'mystic' RP midget premieres in Denmark** /D3

INSIDE

■ **'K' for Kapatid Korina?** Dollywood /D4

■ **Edu cool about Willie joining Ch 7** /E4

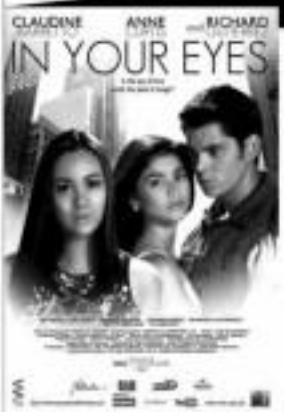
■ **Makati is LA in Tollywood movie** /E1

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

add us on Facebook

ONLINE PROMO!



Visit www.smcinema.com
Answer the
"IN YOUR EYES" trivia question
and get a chance to win
"BALER" DVD

Showing at

SM CINEMA

AUGUST 19

IMAX

THE EXPENDABLES

SM DIGITAL THEATER

metro manila

luzon

visayas + mindanao

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS
AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS
MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 RECEPTION
2 SALT
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 DROWN UPS
5 STEP UP
6 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
7 THE LAST AIRBENDER
8 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
9 TOKYO
10 HATING KARATE

MANILA — **METRO EAST**

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 DROWN UPS
3 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
4 HATING KARATE / HATING KARATE
5 SALT
6 STEP UP 3
7 HATING KARATE / RECEPTION
1 DROWN UPS
2 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
3 STEP UP 3
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 RECEPTION
6 SALT
7 THE LAST AIRBENDER
8 HATING KARATE

NOVALICHES — **FORUM ROBINSONS**

1 SALT
2 STEP UP 3
3 DROWN UPS
4 THE EXPENDABLES
1 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
2 DROWN UPS
3 SALT
4 THE EXPENDABLES

MOVIEWORLD

can be your Cinema

We can be your venue for advance screenings, private film viewings, corporate and school events and other organizational functions.

For more details, kindly contact the Marketing Services Department at 395-1111 local 232 and 240

STA. ROSA — **LIPA**

1 SALT
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 DROWN UPS
4 HATING KARATE
1 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
2 SALT
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 HATING KARATE

DASMARINAS — **STARMILLS**

1 DROWN UPS
2 KILLERS
3 SALT
4 THE EXPENDABLES
1 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
2 SALT
3 THE HOT TUB TIME MACHINE
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 HATING KARATE
6 DROWN UPS

IMUS — **ANGELES**

1 DROWN UPS
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SALT
4 KILLERS
1 THE EXPENDABLES
2 DROWN UPS
3 AMERICAN VIRGIN
4 SALT

TACLOBAN — **DUMAGUETE**

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 PREDATORS
3 SALT
1 SALT
2 THE LAST AIRBENDER
3 PREDATORS

BACOLOD — **ILOILO**

1 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
2 THE HOT TUB TIME MACHINE
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 SALT
5 HATING KARATE
6 DROWN UPS
1 STEP UP 3 (Digital 3D)
2 DROWN UPS
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 SALT
5 HATING KARATE
6 GHOST HOUSE

GENSAN

1 STEP UP (Digital 3D)
2 HATING KARATE
3 FURY VENGEANCE
4 SALT

ILOCOS NORTE

1 FURY VENGEANCE
2 THE LOSERS
3 SALT

New York's strong street dancing underground comes alive in eye-popping 3D

Watch this now in Metroworld's DIGITAL 3D CINEMA

Galleria • Manila • Forum • Metro East
Lipa • Starmills • Pampanga • Bacolod
Iloilo • Gensan

NOW SHOWING

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

RP 'mystic' takes a bow in Denmark

Film also tackles several local cults

By Maribel R. Cruz

"SON OF GOD," a collaboration between Khavn de la Cruz and Danish filmmaker Michael Noer, will have its world premiere on Aug. 20 at the 2010 Rio Film Festival in Copenhagen, according to the festival website (www.riofilm.dk).

The movie tells the bizarre story of a "mystic" midget from Leyte (based in Manila) and his followers. It also takes a look at the Sto. Niño, Black Nazarene, Ginebra and Mt. Banahaw cults.

The festival in Denmark runs from Aug. 27 to Sept. 5.

"Son of God" is a product of the talent workshop "Dun Lab 1," which De la Cruz and Noer attended in 2009.

Commissioned by the Copenhagen International Documentary Festival, Dun Lab is a talent development and production program to which filmmakers, in teams of two, are "challenged to think differently and find new approaches to making films—aesthetically and economically" said www.cphdox.dk.

Twelve filmmakers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia were notified with 12 directors from the Nordic countries. Each team was given approximately 11,000 euros (about US$14,100) to cover production expenses.

Other films from the "Dun Lab 1" program that will be screened in the festival are "Infinite Information" ("I Love You Forever"), by Cedric Sharpe Kohanteeb and Nikolai Larsen (Denmark) and "Melancholy" by Yves Mahmed (Denmark) and Mr Oliver (Thailand).

Meanwhile, De la Cruz's "Cameroon Love Letter," a film short in Africa and inspired by the filmmaker's trip to the Republic of Cameroon, when "Pinagsakto Ko Na" and its lead actors Jenzko Rosako and Kristoc Ateneo on very popular.

The film Dok-kids Cinema Festival is a "specialized competitive festival" focusing on contemporary productions from the "Third World documentarists," according to www.indiewire.com.

De la Cruz and "Cameroon Love Letter" is dedicated to the late Fil-Canadian film critic Alexis Tioseco and his partner, filmmaker Jessica. She journalist Mia Astillano, who were brutally murdered in 2006. A special screening to commemorate the couple's first death anniversary will be held on Aug. 20, 2:30 p.m., at the UStore Cinema at Fully Booked, Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City.

NOER and De la Cruz followed the Leyte midget's pilgrimage

"SON of God" also tells the story of religious fanatics.

US senator, 86, with Lady Gaga

CHEER FACTOR

WASHINGTON, New Jersey—The oldest US senator will hold a fundraiser on Sept. 7 during pop singer Lady Gaga's Monster Ball Tour in Washington. The Washington Post reports that Sen. Frank Lautenberg, 86, is offering seats in exclusive suite for $2,500 a person for political action committees and $1,500 for individuals.

Aga celebrates first birthday as grandpa

MY GORGEOUS stepson, Ahmenna [eldest daughter of Albert and Liezl Martinez], had a very important mission in Hong Kong. She went on a single-day trip to pick up Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach's birthday gift to her "forever-bagay," Ination Aga. A limited-edition IWC watch (only 500 pieces were manufactured).

Aga more than deserves the million-peso watch because he's truly one in a million. It's his first birthday as a lolo (to Ajjhon's son Alejandro) so he has all the more reason to celebrate. The Muhlach charm lives on.

I texted Aga on the eve of his 61st birthday. His reply: "Thanks Dolls. Needle-ting ako for you always." Likewise, Aga. I'm forever in your corner.

NO retreat for James Yap fans. ALEXIS SANTOS

K for Kapuso?

A close friend of Korina Sanchez told me she might move to TV5 if ABS-CBN doesn't have major plans for her. The multi-awarded broadcaster would be a welcome addition to the fast-growing network.

I second Korina for the cool score. Her reply: "Bawa talaga siguro. Dahang-dahan! Ayaw ko talking sa anyone but ABS-CBN. Am currently running for three years for the re-metrophoto of my career."

Will "Record K" soon be K for Kapuso?

'Win-win'

I bumped into Tito Sotto de Leon in Annex Cooper Salon (where we are both nail-I. He's convinced that "Get Balagat" is looking it over "Pilipinas Win na Win" for the ratings game.

What are his sentiments about **Willie Revillame**'s overlapping his concert with ABS-CBN? "Malakas talaga bangaster ang network," he said. "Matinding gabi-ang napanood ni Willie para sa dami ng pinagkakaabalahan niyan, siguradong makapanood niya 'yun. Ang tutukan agadan na lahat ang panoorin nakasanay ang mga gumawa sa Eat Bulaga! sa magsagupang mga artistang kay hirap kuwentuhin."

Sotto's Tito Jimy always brings fresh food memories of our mom, who was his first boss on radio. He has remained so grounded and warm, that I sometimes forget how famous he really is.

Yap fanatics

Avid supporters of James Yap braved the ABS-CBN snow during the coverage of the PBA championship games where he was proclaimed MVP. Yap's fans clustered in cartoon, "Pilipinas Love na Love...ayaw nawala dyan."

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IS KORINA Sanchez moving to another network?

MICHELLE is Opie's Bestiaranger.

You won't blame them for the way they feel towards the network and, by association, the show of James' ex-wife Kris Aquino. That's what Divorce can do.

'Last' concert

Concert-in-her Ogie Alcasid is more than inspired for his coming concert with Syan Cayabyab, "O.C. in the PICC," on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. (Call 551-7963). Special guests are Sheryl Cayabyab and the Apuo Cayabyab singers.

Since it will be his last concert as a single man, will it influence his choice of songs? "Definitely," he replied. "But it will have a surprise in the show."

Mr. C presumed in concert a special wedding song for Ogie and Regine. His ex-wife **Michelle van Eimeren** will have a participation in the surprise. "She has a thriving Bond business in Australia," Ogie said, "so she will do our floral arrangement. The big day won't be complete without Michelle, her husband Mark and our kids."

What hounds old ter hears from his first marriage which he will apply to his second one? "That's a tough question," he said. "I guess it's the level of maturity and depth of the commitment to each other. Having a failed marriage is not something to be proud of. So now that I'm blessed to have a second crack at it, I'll make sure I behave (laughs) and make it for keeps."

The songwriter is all set to write his happy-ever-after with the longhird.

LOLO Aga (left, turned 61)

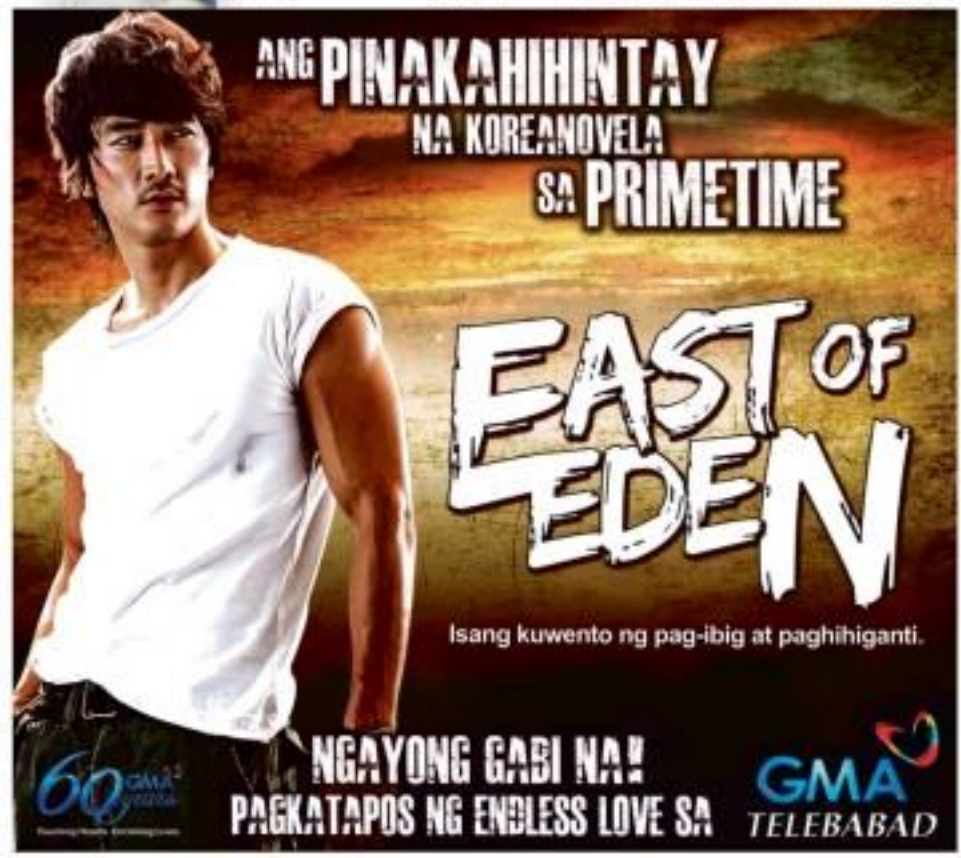
K-Pop heartthrob

When Korea's number one boy band gets in trouble, a race-to-waiting in their only answer. Can the sun pose as a K-Pop heartthrob and become the band's newest lead singer?

Get ready to feel the Asianovela fever once more as ABS-CBN premieres the biggest and much awaited idol drama of the year, "He's Beautiful," today before "Mommy."

It features one of Korea's most sought after stars, Park Shin Hye, as well as the newest heartthrobs Jung Gyun Suk, Korean band C.N. Blue's vocalist Jung Yong Hwa, and FTIsland's frontman Lee Hong Ki. The certified idol drama is out to show that beauty is in the eyes of the TV viewers.

E-mail wsaweb@abs-cbn.com



ENTERTAINMENT

John Pao, star of "Tribes" and the face of avant-cinema for a new generation of viewers

Makati seen as LA in new Indian movie

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHO knew that Makati City could stand in for Los Angeles, California?

Five months ago, Indian producer Boneymoods Reddy Vandinady Googled" world capitals and obtained spruce photos of the Makati skyline, "a perfect match for Los Angeles."

Even the savvy-sounding fields of Hollywood, where he studied film at the University of California in LA.

He came to visit and found that Greenbelt malls would also pass for those in LA. He noted, "There's always at least one Indian movie shooting in or near Bangkok every day; we

MAKATI 02

New stars for old

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE DON'T usually go for all-out, dare-long sequences or flicks based on violent video games. But we recently acquiesced to our nephew's viewing choice and ended up watching "Tribes."

The futuristic flick about a post-apocalyptic world gone mad was a rather (banal) love production with much too rigid and predictable a "fight for your life" format. But it held our attention enough for us not to say "waste" on our overnight.

Even better, it introduced us to its young lead actor, Jon Pao, who played the star-making role of Jin, the movie's resident hero and freedom-fighter. As he expected fist-acting and fighting scenes with the cool competence of a young pro, the relatively new actor garnered himself to us as the face of world cinema for the new generation of moviegoers.

Namely: no longer just traditionally Aryan \$20-or-black, but a comely, genetically diverse and textured combination of races—just like the rest of the "real" world! (See related story, page E5.)

Well, it's about time that the movies show the way their viewers really look—no longer either black or white, but reflecting and vivifying all of the colors of the human continuum, in all of its kaleidoscopically bewitching hues.

At the other end of the stellar spectrum, the even newer actresses, "The Impossibles," in turn promise itself as an instruction manual image or negative of "Tribes's" sparkling new action star. "The Impossibles" top-bills veteran macho superstars like Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger to what is being billed as quite possibly their "last" movie together.

Yes, our ensemble action heroes are looking quite long in the tooth and even noticeably wanted and wizened these days, hence the need for new action heroes like Jon to step into the breach. We trust, however, that Sly and company have enough vim and vigor left in them to give action flix buffs a whale of a good time at the flicks.

Clint Eastwood is even older than Stallone, but he's still very active in the movies, albeit in the even more important capacity as writer-director.

Other veterans stars who are still making movies include Betty White, Sophia Loren, Judi Dench, Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Al Pacino, Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Vanessa Redgrave and

NEW E2

4 WAYS TO LOAD SUN BROADBAND

SCRATCH CARD

Available at all Sun Shops and hundreds of retailers and prepaid card kiosks nationwide.

XPRESS LOAD

Reload electronically at your suking tindahan with just your account number.

GIVE-A-LOAD

Send and receive load from family and friends by texting the amount or load code* to 2292.

LOAD CONVERSION

Simply text "125" or "150" to 247 and convert your regular load to broadband load.

CHOOSE THE EASIEST LOADING OPTION FOR NON-STOP SURFING.

Choose from any of these Sun Broadband Wireless loads:

VISIT THE SUN SHOP NOW! Hotline: 395-3333 • www.suncellular.com.ph

sun broadband

* For a list of Load Codes, text GAL to 2300 for free.

GARFIELD

A.LIPH

PLUGO BARDY

DICK TRACY

LOVEHANDS

JAMES BOND

EMMIE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TUADOR

SEN

BIKO MAGAZINE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY PRAVEEN CHHIBBER

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Those who are born right at the beginning of your sign had endeavored and began work very early in life. After the 25th that you applied yourself to it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your passionate romantic has been strong recently. This is a good thing. It's totally appropriate for you to communicate with others and be involved in group activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Continue to look for ways to boost your reputation among your peers. This is one of the best times for your sign to more than a decade to put your reputation on the line.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An outstanding sense of opportunities to travel, as well as opportunities to explore higher education, publishing and the media. These exist for you now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Money, resources and help from others combine to boost your way. Goodness now attracts more goodness to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Partnerships and close friendships are especially favored for your sign at this time. Be sure to develop open communication.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Continue to look for ways to improve your health as well as ways to maintain your physical vitality. Your body is your greatest gift. There's no cause now to be less vigorous you've had to be this is since it's your.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Romance, love affairs, vacations, the arts, sports and playful activities with children all now receive more for you now. Step up your hands and make them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Home and family activities are aspects of life for you. Family relationships have been been for the better. Of course, have expanded your limits through marriage, relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your positive frame of mind has gained this year have you noticed? It's the relationship you attract the people of positive thinking!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You definitely can feel sure on matter to you on the side, boost your current income or to create your bonds with respect and these. It's your own to get started.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is your most fortunate year since 1998. Every positive attitude about life. Seize the time of every opportunity that comes your way.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Type and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle:

4	7	8	5	1	3	6	9	2
2	5	9	6	8	4	7	1	3
6	3	1	9	7	2	8	4	5
1	6	4	3	5	8	2	7	9
9	8	5	7	2	6	4	3	1
7	2	3	4	9	1	5	8	6
8	4	6	2	3	5	9	1	7
5	1	2	8	6	9	3	7	4
3	9	7	1	4	7	1	6	8

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

6								3
	1		3		7		2	
			9	4	8			
	5	1		8		3	6	
		6	1		3	7		
	7	8		2		5	9	
			8	9	6			
	9		4		2		1	
7								4

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

JON Pax shows us his scars.

He met his match in Manila

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

BILIBID VI Manila. "Pakiao" star Jon Pax showed us his bruises like mark one true a badge of honor.

Of the gashes on his left arm, he explained: "I had to break a bar/disco joke. The first bruise is from Take 7, the second from Take 2." He had a swollen foot "from all the kicking," and a scar on his right knuckle.

All from a one-on Bangkok shoot for "Bilibid," a French action flick.

For "Bilibid," Jon said, he was also on his own commando, as current Tomb champion, ing fight scenes.

"It was my first big role," he said. "The closest was like a crash course." Director Dwight D. Little taught him the importance of being relaxed on the set, Jon added. "Sometimes, as pressured to do well. He helped me with it."

In Manila, the good looking (hundred) who starred in ing "all sorts of dangerous stunts" at age 6, met his match. Babe!

Laughing, he testified, "I ate it quickly and tried not to look at it."

New stars for old

From page E1

Shirley Blackstone.

Back to the new stars of today and tomorrow. Most recently Judene Smith scored with the latest version of the "Bimbo Kid" film franchise. Here again, the "bimbette" styles of modern cinema were emblazoned across the silver screen, with newbie Judene's dusky coloring contrasting luminously with tresses co-star Awkie Oxan's lotsa luscious.

That's a clear indication of the film world's future right there, especially since it has already established that Asia is now the movie's biggest market.

As more viewers from different races go to the movies in increasing numbers, they'll be looking for and even insisting on seeing more who look more like them, and there are easier for them to empathize with.

It goes without saying that, due to our ever-mixed race country, Filipinos could be at the forefront of this new wave of truly "international" TV-film stars. Chances in "Vibes" could be just the precursor of a "wave" of global Pinoy talents to come.

So, our promising talents and potential stars of tomorrow had better work really hard to hone their talents, to make sure that, when opportunity knocks, they'll be good and ready to "model" it/them!

A SCENE from "Project P (4)"

Makati...

From page E1

did some fight scenes there, too, but most of the film was done here."

For 27 days, Sheldon's '85-strong crew shot with five actors from Hollywood as the Hotel 8228 in Manila Ocean Park and in the Dhijon and Makati areas.

Tollywood is the Telugu language film industry, and Telugu is India next to Hollywood.

Produced by Atul Kamalakar Kulkarni, directed by Ajay Bhuyan and written by Uday Sankar, titled "Dangerous # 34," Reddy's film will be released in...

While in...ment, Reddy said, "We did a lot of shopping in Makati. We bought most of our souvenirs in Greenbelt and Rockwell."

Authentic

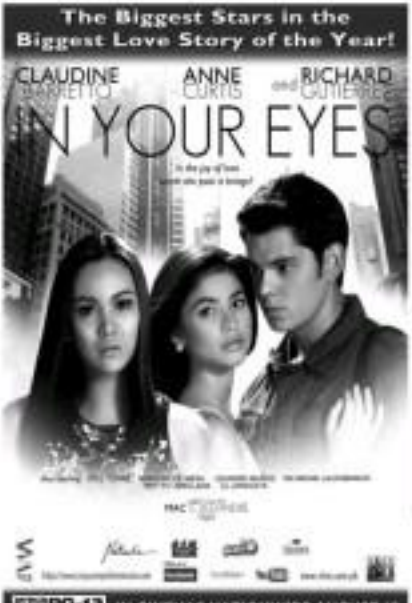
Reddy was impressed by the local Indian restaurants. "I thought we'd have a hard time, but restaurants like New Shalimar and Kashmir are pretty authentic."

For Rockwell's accommodating hosts in Ducat International Travel Cars and the government, represented by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

Two Indian TV shows, "Sa Big Time" and "Shopaholic," were previously taped in the country. "Dangerous # 34" is the first Indian movie to shoot here, said FDCP's Digna Santiago.

Reddy promised, "The DOT and FDCP were very supportive and took care of us, helping with visas and permits."

He's eyeing to return, he said, to shoot in Boracay some production numbers for another movie.



Michelle very involved in Ogie's wedding

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Michelle van Eimeren married Mark Meeuwse in November 2009 in Melbourne, New South Wales, Australia, but ex-husband Ogie Alcasid was among the guests. So was his girlfriend Regine Velasquez.

Ogie and Regine recently announced they would wed soon, probably in December. Michelle, 1994 Miss Australia from Brisbane, who is now a wedding planner in her country, will be in charge of the floral decoration, Ogie said.

He added, happily, "My two daughters (with Michelle—Leila and Sarah) will come for the wedding." He will wear a suit, he said, instead of a Barong Tagalog.

Ogie has asked President Aquino to be one of his groomsmen. Business tycoon Manny Pangilinan, actress Shamcey Supsup, GMA executives Felips Gozon and Wilma Galvante are among the principal sponsors.

In a television interview, Michelle said, "Ogie, Reg, you're my family. I am very happy that now will be married soon, because I know you've insisted first for a long time."

CHEER FACTOR

'Always Sunny' often funny

By Oliver M. Palattao
Contributor

ONE OF THE FUNNIEST shows on TV, "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," has idiotic and crude characters, pub owners constantly cooking up inane schemes that sometimes backfire on them. But they're also unaware of their lack of morality and their misadventures elicit hearty laughs.

Charlie Mac (Rob McElhenney), Dennis (Glenn Howerton), Dee (Kaitlin Olson), Charlie (Charlie Day) and Frank (Danny DeVito) keep every buff-bent stereotype of the terribly sitcom family with boorish behavior. The series, created by McElhenney, has been around for five seasons. The gang's exploits can be satirical, loud, or gross, depending on the theme of the week. Sometimes, it's all of the above.

This latest season is especially uproarious, as the party disrespectful characters come up with more bare-brained plots. Sometimes, the personalities are overshadowed and it doesn't matter; this supposedly unlikable bunch is very watchable, thanks to the gang's mostly unpredictable nature.

That's correct shenanigans are characteristically chaotic. In one of the episodes, Frank's excessive drinking and unruly conduct soon affecting the rest of the Philadelphians, as they stage an intervention. But they're unable to prepare for one, made to the chagrin of an outsider witness.

Riotous story lines

In another episode, Dee runs into an ex she dumped in high school. But he's now engaged to someone else known, and she finds herself arrested as the guy now that his ex has cleared up. She soon plans to ruin the relationship and win him back, unaware that he's out to break the hearts of the ones that dumped him.

Another riotous story line puts the gang against newly hot hunk Hamilton and smoked, the pub owners hatch a scheme that, they believe, will teach the stridently ill-mannered college boys a lesson they'll never forget.

DeVito, who joined the cast belatedly, is a great addition to the group; his boasting character Frank's jobless antics (extraordinary enthusiasm for already fat-bared gathering of morons, and while their exemplars are usually pointless or mean-spirited, the show ensures there's that regular chuckle won't, easily inspiring root and long-chuckles.

"It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" airs Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., on AxisTV.

EDU Manzano signed up Wednesday. He ended the deal with network bosses Wilma Galvante, Jimmy Duenn and Felips L. Gozon.

WILLIE gives an nine on Friday

JOEY De Leon sick on Saturday

Joey, Edu . . . is there room for Willie?

By Marinel R. Cruz

JOEY de Leon was "not feeling well," said his "friends" colleagues, the day after old rival Willie Revillame was interviewed on GMA 7's newsprogram "24 Oras."

Joey had called in sick, leaving the hosting of the Saturday talk show to the three other mainstays.

A source said Joey might be feeling bad that his home network helped Willie air grievances against rival station ABS-CBN, which has scrapped Willie's show. The lessons tried but failed to reach Joey.

In August 2007, Joey and Willie had a public exchange of bitter words via their daily game shows—Joey on "Eat Bulaga!" and Willie on "Wowowee."

On Friday, "24 Oras" anchor Mike Enriquez interviewed Willie about the conflict with ABS-CBN. Willie earlier declared himself free of his contract; ABS-CBN was not impressed. During the interview, Willie said he could now negotiate with other networks.

Kapuso bosses have denied they had a standing offer for Willie, but the interview sparked speculation to the contrary.

Only days prior, GMA 7 signed-up Michelle Guerrero, a former host of several game shows on ABS-CBN. Gilo will now host a Kapuso game show.

Does the station have room for a third big game show host?

Silio told Inquirer.net on Saturday he can see conflict, should GMA 7 hire Willie: "He has qualities unique to himself. I don't think there will ever be competition between us. Besides, I'm just an employee. It's not up to me."

Robinsons Galleria Cinema 10
Robinsons Movieworld Ermita
Robinsons Movieworld Manila
Robinsons Movieworld Alabang
Robinsons Movieworld Cebu
Robinsons Movieworld Iloilo
Robinsons Movieworld Davao
Robinsons Movieworld Cagayan de Oro
Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod
Robinsons Movieworld Marikina
Robinsons Movieworld Antipolo
Robinsons Movieworld Pampanga
Robinsons Movieworld Dasmariñas
Robinsons Movieworld Gensan
Robinsons Movieworld Tacloban
Robinsons Movieworld Batangas
Robinsons Movieworld Naga
Robinsons Movieworld Roxas
Robinsons Movieworld Puerto Princesa
Robinsons Movieworld Zamboanga
Robinsons Movieworld Butuan
Robinsons Movieworld Dumaguete
Robinsons Movieworld Tuguegarao
Robinsons Movieworld Legazpi
Robinsons Movieworld Tagbilaran
Robinsons Movieworld Laoag
Robinsons Movieworld Iligan
Robinsons Movieworld Koronadal
Robinsons Movieworld Tagum
Robinsons Movieworld Malaybalay
Robinsons Movieworld Ormoc
Robinsons Movieworld Surigao
Robinsons Movieworld Dipolog
Robinsons Movieworld Cotabato
Robinsons Movieworld Calbayog
Robinsons Movieworld Catbalogan
Robinsons Movieworld Kidapawan
Robinsons Movieworld Bislig
Robinsons Movieworld Mati
Robinsons Movieworld Gingoog
Robinsons Movieworld Oroquieta
Robinsons Movieworld Malolos
Robinsons Movieworld Lucena
Robinsons Movieworld Sorsogon
Robinsons Movieworld Tabaco
Robinsons Movieworld Virac
Robinsons Movieworld Boac
Robinsons Movieworld Romblon
Robinsons Movieworld Calapan
Robinsons Movieworld Puerto Galera
Robinsons Movieworld Roxas
Robinsons Movieworld Puerto Princesa
Robinsons Movieworld Zamboanga
Robinsons Movieworld Butuan
Robinsons Movieworld Dumaguete
Robinsons Movieworld Tuguegarao
Robinsons Movieworld Legazpi
Robinsons Movieworld Tagbilaran
Robinsons Movieworld Laoag
Robinsons Movieworld Iligan
Robinsons Movieworld Koronadal
Robinsons Movieworld Tagum
Robinsons Movieworld Malaybalay
Robinsons Movieworld Ormoc
Robinsons Movieworld Surigao
Robinsons Movieworld Dipolog
Robinsons Movieworld Cotabato
Robinsons Movieworld Calbayog
Robinsons Movieworld Catbalogan
Robinsons Movieworld Kidapawan
Robinsons Movieworld Bislig
Robinsons Movieworld Mati
Robinsons Movieworld Gingoog
Robinsons Movieworld Oroquieta
Robinsons Movieworld Malolos
Robinsons Movieworld Lucena
Robinsons Movieworld Sorsogon
Robinsons Movieworld Tabaco
Robinsons Movieworld Virac
Robinsons Movieworld Boac
Robinsons Movieworld Romblon
Robinsons Movieworld Calapan
Robinsons Movieworld Puerto Galera
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
WATCH IT LIVE!
BASKETBALL MADNESS AT THE BIG DOME
PBA
NCAA

facebook
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
is now on
facebook
Like us in
To get the latest cinema updates

ALL NEW BUFFET ADVENTURE
LUNCH & DINNER
• Prime Rib • Sushi Bar • Lechon de Leche • Raksha • Tempura • Assorted Seafood and many more
All New Cookin'! Appetite whettin' Watch the Chef cook your food!
ALL NEW PLUS MORE Somethin' FISHY
MIDNIGHT TO MORNING BUFFET
All hearty, all sumptuous for night owls and early birds!
More than 20 Buffet Dishes!
EVERYDAY 12mn to 10am
₱139
Net
For reservations and more info, call 421-6412 • 421-6413

Top young scientists in Eureka / F3

Q&A with a surgeon at high school career day / F4

LEARNING

Editor Chelo Bersabal Formoso

BE A SPONSOR

Donate at least 3 copies of the Inquirer Monday to Friday for the school year to the newspaper corner of a public school. Call 8979808 and ask for the Marketing Dept.

Toward kinder, gentler and safer schools

By Linda B. Bolido

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) will intensify efforts to make the country's schools, particularly government-run institutions, safe for students.

According to Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Alberto Muyot, the department would strengthen the Child-Friendly Schools System (CFSS) program it launched in 1999 with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

DepEd's CFSS program, Muyot said, went beyond violence and covered five areas, as follows:

- A school is a non-discriminatory, gender-sensitive and inclusive.
- A school is effective. It has a child-centered curriculum, quality learning objectives are met, and children are active participants in school activities.
- A school is a healthy place for children. The buildings, facilities and grounds are clean and safe. Immunization programs and other health services are available.
- A school cares and protects all children.
- A school involves families and other institutions in the community, enlisting their support for projects and activities beneficial to children.

Some indicators of a child-friendly school are the presence of personnel who ensure the presence, property and belongings of pupils and teachers; coordination with the barangay for the safety and protection of pupils; a policy against discrimination because of gender, ethnic origin, social status, religious belief and others; and the use by teachers of non-threatening disciplines.

CHILDREN present a copy of the study on violence to DepEd Undersecretary Alberto Muyot. Others in photo are (L-R) Plan International country director Michael Diamond, DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Unicef representative Nanneke Tobbe.

Prompted by study

The department is reviewing the CFSS program and relevant policies following the release of "Towards a Child-Friendly Education Environment: A Baseline Study on Violence against Children in Public Schools."

The study was commissioned by United Plan International and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), as part of the follow-up action by the Philippines to the 2006 World Report on Violence against Children.

It noted the prevalence not just of overt forms of violence that resulted to injury, but also other acts "that may not be readily or widely identified as such."

Some forms of violence like spanking, beating, pinching and slapping, were tolerated and considered "acceptable" ways to discipline children, the study said.

Expressions of anger

Verbal forms of violence like cursing and shouting, it added, were even seen as natural or normal expressions of anger.

The study noted that adults had clearly "limited perceptions" on violence against children and had inadequate skills to appropriately handle such cases.

It also found that children accepted physical violence or corporal punishment as a consequence of misbehavior.

The study done by the Philippine Women's University covered children in public schools in Mountain Province, Ifugao, Northern Samar, Capiz, Camotes Island in Cebu, and Italian Extension, as well as in the cities of Manila, Cebu and Davao.

Among other things, the study found that at least four out of 10 children in Grades 1-3 and seven out of 10 in Grades 4-6 and in high school had experienced some kind of violence in school.

About 65 percent of the sample population complained of embarrassment, and 56.35 percent of Grade 4-6 children and 42.86 percent of high school students have encountered verbal sexual violence.

Muyot said, in response to the study's findings, the department would intensify efforts to raise the consciousness of teachers about the rights of children and their protection against abusive officials and other adults.

Article VII.3, Section 8, of the Code of Ethics for Professional Teachers (1998), already makes it unlawful for a teacher to use physical violence to discipline a misbehaving student. "A teacher shall not inflict corporal punishment on offending learners nor make deductions from their students' rating as punishment for acts which are clearly not manifestations of poor scholarship."

Muyot said sanctions would be organized for school personnel on managing the behavior of schoolchildren, including the prevention of abuse.

TURNED TO F3

My daughter's living nightmare

By Jenny Santiso-Santiago
Contributor

"BECAUSE BULLIED"

That was the name my 8-year-old daughter Heather scrawled out in the middle of the night, followed by unreasonable sobbing.

Mylene (not her real name) was the female bully in the third grade class of the Parthenon private school my daughter went to attend.

From day one, Mylene made life miserable for Heather, who had transferred from another school.

Almost every day my child came home in tears because

The bullying was incessant and even moved on to the Internet

of her "bad" things Mylene did to her. Every time she gave a wrong answer or made a mistake, Mylene and the other girls laughed at her.

Sometimes, Mylene bumped or pushed her as they stood in line for the flag ceremony. Once, as they climbed the stairs with their classmates

following behind, Mylene lifted her skirt.

Heather never fought back nor did she report. Mylene no doubt reasoned, all the other girls would side with her tormentor.

At first, I thought Heather was simply having trouble adjusting to a new school. My only child tends to shy away from people, especially those she hardly knows. So, I

TO SALVADOR'S F3

Your Future as A Teacher is About to Turn A Page

New Horizons. New Opportunities. New Zealand.

THE PHILIPPINES – NEW ZEALAND PRESCHOOL TEACHING CAREERS FAIR 2010

and

A Teacher is About to Turn A Page

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION bench/ present

Legend of the Pony's Tears

A five-story series to promote literacy

In celebration of the International Literacy Day on September 8, Inquirer in Education – in cooperation with Bench – will serialize a story entitled **Legend of the Pony's Tears** every Monday from August 23 to November 8, 2010 in the Learning Section.

Legend of the Pony's Tears is a quality serial story by award-winning author Mary Madelen with illustrations by Vicki Wallace, as promoted by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN-IFRA). It is the story of a boy named Little Wolf and his adventures with his pony friend among the Native Americans.

Each of the twelve chapters comes with activities that parents and teachers may use with young readers to develop reading and writing skills as well as critical thinking.

For this new series, Bench is donating copies of the Inquirer for use by partner teachers in their classrooms at 13 grade schools:

Balanga Elementary School (Balaan) • Cabog-Cabog Elementary School (Balaan) • Cel. E. de Leon Elementary School (Parañaque) • Cupang Elementary School (Balaan) • Don Galo Elementary School (Parañaque) • Esperito Ibarra Memorial School (Manila) • Gabaldon Elementary School (Lucena City) • Gov. P.F. Espiritu Elementary School (Cavite) • Jose Magsaysay Elementary School (Makati) • Legarda Elementary School (Manila) • Numancio T. Tanjuit Elementary School (Makati) • Soldiers Hills IV Elementary School (Cainta) • Tuloy sa Don Bosco Elementary School (Alabang)

Legend of the Pony's Tears is the fourth story in the 5E Serial Reading program to be sponsored by Bench.

Playgrounds for the MIND

E-mail: mindgym@inquirer.com.ph

Member Schools

UE Graduate School presents lecture on Accountability and Governance

THE UNIVERSITY of the East, through its Graduate School, will present a lecture on "Accountability and Governance" on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m. at the Conference Hall, 4th Floor, Delgado St. Building, UE Manila.

The lecture features two distinguished resource speakers, namely, former Georgia state senator and former US Government Accountability Office adviser James P. Wetherbey Jr. and Dr. Ricardo Emilio C. Libiran, consultant, Office of the Ombudsman of the Philippines and a UE Graduate School faculty member.

As internationally recognized and corruption crusader, Wetherby will speak on "Integrity and Honor, Corruption and Dishonor". Libiran will discuss "Right-based Development and Governance".

Recognized worldwide for his lifetime dedication to accountability and transparency in government, Wetherby's professional training and focus are most closely linked to financial accountability and performance auditing, beginning with early crusades against corruption in his home state of Georgia where he authored the code of ethics for state employees. He is a multi-awarded anti-corruption consultant and recipient of the highest awards of the Western Hemisphere Anti-corruption Federation and World Internal Auditing Profession.

The lecture is open to the public. Admission is free on a first-come first-served basis. For inquiries, please contact the UE Graduate School Dean's Office, tel. nos. 735-34-71 loc. 338 or 374.

NCAA-South kicks off season 12

"IT IS NOT ONLY... Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)-South launched its newest season month. Yet it was Institute of Technology and Humanities (ITH) in Tanauan City, Batangas, season 12 host school - spearheaded the kick-off activity. The kick-off activity started at "The NCAA-South Hour" was a simultaneous activity in the 10 member-schools of the athletic association. NCAA-South is an offshoot of the NCAA-Manila. The 10-member schools are: First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH)-Tanauan, Batangas, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba, De La Salle Lipa, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas, Philippine Christian University-Dasmariñas, San Pedro College-San Pedro, University of Perpetual Help-System Laguna, Dalubhasaan Teknikal College-Bacoor, and Santa Rita College, and University of Batangas. This year's theme is "More than the Game: Unity through Sports." The opening ceremonies will be held Sept. 2 at the DMPI campus in Tanauan City, Batangas. For updates on the NCAA-South games and events, you may log on to http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=394000000000 and http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=394000000000

Rep. Lani Mercado enrolls in Miriam College

ACTRESS-TURNED- Congresswoman Lani Mercado has proven there is no age limit to learning. The representative of the lone district of Bacoor, Cavite, has decided to go back to school and enroll in Environmental Planning and Management major in Urban Planning and Development, under Miriam College's Professional Program. Apart from wanting to earn a degree, Mercado says her counterpart will help her in carrying out strategic and environmentally-sound development plans for Bacoor during her first term in Congress. Miriam College's Professional Program combines the independent study of work-experience and distance education. It uses a blended learning approach that complements modular, online or web-based teaching with the occasional face-to-face sessions on campus. Such flexibility allows professionals like Mercado to balance work and studying while pursuing a degree. Other courses offered are Communication Arts, Entrepreneurship/Business Administration, Social Work, and Psychology. To learn more about the Miriam College Professional Program, please log on to sis.mc.edu.ph or call the Miriam College Registrar at 435-6488 ext. 2826.

Quezon Day rites at Colegio de San Juan de Letran

LETRAN WILL commemorate the 132nd birthday of its distinguished alumnus President Manuel Luis Quezon on Aug. 19. This yearly celebration begins with a mass in memory of President Quezon at noon in the morning followed by a short program, floral offering and the traditional breakfast with the Dominican fathers of Letran. The practice was started by President Quezon himself, who came to Letran to hear mass on his birthday and then cheered over chocolate for breakfast. Even declaring a "no-class day" for the students. The Quezon family has kept this tradition and continues to go to Letran. Alumni, parents and students also join the celebration.

AdU's IE program now a Center of Development

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY can boast of a new gem to show off as one of its 21 course programs has been given another distinction. This Industrial Engineering (IE) program of the College of Engineering has been identified by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as a Center of Development (COD) following the results of the review verification/evaluation and subsequent recommendation by the Technical Panel for Engineering and Technology (TPET). The IE program has been identified as COD status beginning this school year 2010-2011 after a recent en banc meeting. According to the CHED website, CODs and Centers of Excellence (COEs) are public and private higher education institutions, which have demonstrated the highest degree or level of standards along the areas of instruction, research and extension. These institutions also provide institutional leadership in all aspects of development in specific areas of discipline by providing networking arrangements to help ensure the accelerated development of HEIs in their respective service areas. The IE program has a long, illustrious history and now after almost a century, to be established in this university. AdU itself is recognized as one of the first schools ever to institute the study of industrial engineering in the country. The department was founded at the forefront of the 10th National Congress and 4th IE Research Conference of the Philippine Institute of Industrial Engineers (PIIE), with several IIEE administrators taking charge of the event. IE pins, one other programs in Adamson that have become COEs/CODs and Center of Training. The date and venue for the awarding ceremonies will be out at a later date.

IMC marks several events in July

BATANGAS CITY, MIMEOGRAPH Center Makers' San Beato Kintte Center located in the city of Manila, Bulacan, has attained ISO 9001 under the management and supervision of the Community Division Alumni hosted by Pastor Samuel Sales and directed by IMC owner Rufina Pimentel. IMC held its Nutrition Awareness Month on July 20 hosted by Home Arts moderator teacher Josephine Ramos. The celebration started with a parade that was attended by all levels and ended with a cooking battle among high school students with their respective adviser. The battle was won by Section Amethyst of the sophomore students' advise teacher. The following day July 30, the school marked the 36th birthday of IMC president and director Rufina Pascua. The induction of officers of the Student Government and Parents Teachers Association was also held at that day. The occasion was attended by Manila City Mayor Christian Nebrakat, who served as inducting officer. The event was held in the newly built auditorium named JT Pimentel Building home of the school's late founder, Juanit Pimentel.

FEU RECEIVES ENDOWMENT FUND FROM MVP

Business magnate Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) presented or certify the Cocktail or Negros Pangilinan Endowment Fund to far Eastern University (FEU) to help the school's underprivileged career students from both Manila and Makati campuses. The endowment fund, named after Pangilinan's father who retired at FEU during the 1930's, is intended to support university undergrad-

uate engineering, accountancy, and business and finance who are experiencing financial difficulties. It also aims to remind students that economy lessons should not hinder them from graduating and finishing their courses. During the recent signing ceremony for the endowment fund held at the FEU Makati campus, Lyceb School, FEU president said, "We are honored to receive this grant from Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan that will provide assistance to our senior students. We believe this will inspire our nations to give their best to achieve their purpose." In the same ceremony, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) represented by Jose Ma. M. Lim, president MPIC, and Manolo del Rosario, vice president MPIC, also signed a corporate ink package for FEU's basketball teams.

SAN BEDA TEAM NAMED PILIPINAS SIFE CHAMPION

The San Beda SIFE Student Team Pilipinas Users was named the Pilipinas SIFE 2010 national champion during the 2010 national competition culminating at Hotel Taipei Manila. As the national champion, San Beda will represent the Philippines at the prestigious SIFE 2010 World Cup in Los Angeles, USA on Oct. 10 to 13. Filipinas Site chair Jose Lorelei Jr., country leader Estrelle Pallad and Valenzuela City councilor Daniel Rafael, who was the guest of honor during the awarding ceremonies, are shown with the San Beda team.

PWU SCHOOL OF NURSING MARKS 50TH YEAR

The School of Nursing of the Philippine Women's University highlights its golden (50 years) anniversary with a three-month-role honoring outstanding alumni and deans in ceremonies held at Dolores Hotel, Pasay City. PWU chief operating officer and board member Alfredo Reyes (6th from right) and guest of honor Tesha Sylte as Dr. Marietta Tayone, dean of the Manila campus. Others in photo are (L-R) dean Lilma Montemayor of the Batangas City campus, Lorna Tello (service awardee), Dr. Carmela Dorotan, Estelle Gomez-Ira, Dr. Glenda Angeles, Dr. Anita Rivas, Constancia Pastrana, Dr. Josefina Gordoza, Dr. Rhodora Ibanez, Norma Dumadag, Dr. Pamela L. Tugas and Dr. Celeste Hernandez-Ignacio, dean of the Nursing Graduate School. Also in (seventeen) are Dr. Yolanda Aragay, outstanding dean and alumna, Dr. Arsenia Rosales and Lolita Dilumba, outstanding alumna.

Buwan ng Wikang Filipino 2010 sa UST

ANG PAGDIRIWANG ng Departamento ng Filipino ng Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas (UST) ng Buwan ng Wikang Filipino 2010 sa Agosto 2010 ay may temang "Tawid-Isip: Pag-angkin sa Wika at Kalikasan Tungo sa Pagbabago ng Wikang Kolonyal". Ito ay mga pamaraan ng pagdiriwang ang "General Jose Alejo Pangarchiver" at ang "Kolokyum ng Pananaliksik". "Ito ay pagkakataon sa mga UST ng Agosto. Sa General Pangarchiver, ibibigay pagkakataon ng 2011 Departamento ng Filipino ang mga "Tagapagtaguyod ng Wika" sa pagtatanghal ng pagpapakilala ng individualismo upang ng arbang 19-piso na sam-kantong barangay, samantalang ang Kolokyum ay presentasyon ng mga konsepsyong pananaliksik ng mga guro sa Filipino. Ang tawad Sakuba Bachelor's ay may kani-kanila ding programang magagawa na maaaring sa casadong temo. Maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa 406-1611 local 8200 para sa iba pang mga detalye ng buwang pagdiriwang.

DepEd cites Microtel Cavite for education CSR work

MICROTEL EAGLE Ridge, Cavite was cited recently by the Department of Education (DepEd) for its exemplary programs and responsibility (CSR) work in one of the province's public elementary schools.

In awarding a plaque of recognition, the head of DepEd's Region IV-A Collaboration Division of Cavite, District of General Trias I, Edna Reyes, Ed.D., lauded Microtel Eagle Ridge Hotel and resident manager Maria Magdalena Gabriela for their encouraging contributions toward the success of Brigada Eskwela 2010, DepEd's school community improvement program, particularly in the General Trias district.

The citation added that the distribution of newspapers courtesy of Microtel Eagle Ridge, Cavite provided students and the faculty the opportunity to be more aware of socio-economic issues. It also serves as an inspiration to the school in delivering quality education to the community."

As part of the company's many CSR programs, Microtel Eagle Ridge, Cavite does its share in school community building by distributing daily newspapers to the Julianna Elementary School in Antero, General Trias, Cavite. The newspapers are used by the students in their English Reading Comprehension classes to increase their reading ability, for class discussion during Values as they are abreast of current events and in their study of journalism as a subject. Microtel Eagle Ridge is a 37-room hotel that provides comfort and remote privacy. It is conveniently located inside the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, one of the largest golf facilities in the country.

Microtel is an international chain of hotels under the Wyndham Hotel Group with more than 330 properties worldwide. In the Philippines, it has properties in key destinations such as Baguio, Batangas, Boracay, Cabanatuan, Davao, Mall of Asia, Manila Peninsula, and Tarlac. All Microtels in the country are managed by Microtel Development Corp., the hospitality arm of the Phinma Group.

For more information, log on to www.microtelphilippines.com or call 800-7171 or (917) 888-1000.

Outstanding young scientists

(First of two parts)

IN JULY, 11 remarkable Filipino scientists, all of them not older than 40, were recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), for extraordinary work in the physical, natural, and social sciences.

NAST, the premier advisory body in science and technology in the country, issues the following in order to encourage not only to spur them to do more research and service, but also to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

Agriculture

Sue Mark Cruz received his Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1993 and, in 1998, his Master of Science in Genetics degree also from UPLB.

In 2006, with the help of the Fulbright program and the Department of Agriculture, Cruz got his doctorate in plant breeding from Iowa State University in the United States.

At UPLB, Cruz taught genetics and was active in biotechnology and genetics education and communication. While in the US, he taught plant germination and genetics to Native American students.

Cruz helped in technology transfer, as program manager at the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, and provided support on data analysis and breeding for biotech crop projects at UPLB.

Currently, Cruz is a geneticist at the US Department of Agriculture Protected Center for Invasive Pancreatic Pseudomonas, where he is studying oilseed species and domestication of certain plants.

Roel Sarabia graduated cum laude in 1994, with a BS in Agricultural Botany degree from Visayas State University. He obtained an MS in Agronomy from UPLB through a Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) scholarship and, in 2008, a Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences from Nagoya University in Japan under another government scholarship.

Sarabia studies botany and its links to agriculture, researching such topics as the relevance of crop genetics to drought, responses of corn to drought stress, botanical diversity under irrigated versus unfavorable conditions, and screening methods for drought resistance in rice.

At a pioneering researcher, Sarabia has also worked on responses to fluctuating soil moisture, the current trend in world rice research to save water and maximize production. Currently, Sarabia is a research specialist at PhilRice.

Molecular biology

Gaspar Ilac Gutierrez received his BS in Medical Technology degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 1993, and his MS in Molecular Biology from UP Diliman in 2003.

Gutierrez specializes in the use of DNA technology in forensics. She has developed DNA typing methods to validate analytical procedures in handling different types of biological samples for forensic applications. She created a system for the collection, handling and analysis of evidence, in particular in sexual assault cases and human remains identification. She has helped in the generation and expansion of the Philippine reference population genetic database.

Her work has helped ease legal system issues in civil and criminal cases, like human remains identification, providing closure to families of victims. Currently, she is a researcher with the DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute at UP Diliman.

Rachel Barrogo-Gutierrez graduated cum laude in 1995, with a BS in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology degree from UP Diliman. In 2001, she completed her MS in the same field at her alma mater. She is currently finishing her doctorate studies in marine science, supported by the Global Environment Fund Coral Reef Targeted Research Program.

Barrogo-Gutierrez studies applications of molecular genetics to ecology, populations, biogeography and evolution of marine species. Her master's thesis on the population genetic structure of milkfish earned her international recognition. She has also contributed to current knowledge on jacks in different bay and population connectivity for various reef associated species.

Physics, computer science

Eric Galapon got his BS in Physics degree from the University of Northern Philippines in 1992, graduating cum laude. He finished his MS and Ph.D. degrees in the same field at UP Diliman in 1996 and 2001, respectively.

Galapon researches the foundations and applications of quantum mechanics, timedomain physics, and computational physics.

He has published leading physics journals in the world' like "Physical Review Letters," "Physical Review," "Proceedings of the Royal Society of London" that have significantly contributed to theoretical understanding in these fields. His articles have been based on research done entirely at his laboratory in the eastern Gateway, he is working at The National Institute of Physics in UP Diliman.

Allan Abanes got his BS and MS in Mathematics degrees from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2000, he received a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Applications from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Abanes specializes in bioinformatics, as applied to phylogenetics, such as sequence alignment, DNA barcoding, and gene tracing. While still in graduate school, Abanes had collaborated with plant biologists, biochemists, and fellow computer scientists to identify genes that helped common plants acclimatize in specific stress conditions.

Currently Abanes is in Instituto de Naga University working on the database and system biology for Mt. Isarog National Park, focusing on plant and arthropod interaction. The project hopes to contribute to conservation efforts in the national park.

(To be concluded next week)

E-mail the author at bbsoliba@yahoo.com.

Finalists off to regionals of int'l trade tilt

THREE finalist teams in the FedEx Express Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge will represent the Philippines at the regional finals to be held Aug. 22-24 in Singapore.

FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. and the world's largest express transportation company, and Junior Achievement Philippines announced recently the winning teams were Germaine Erika Sow and Charmaine Yap of St. Jude Catholic School; Symon Lim and Marvin Wu of Xavier School; and Bernard Lanuang and Camille Ong of Gen. Montemayor Int. Ensemble.

These teams have been selected from among 11 teams that participated recently in the local competition, and will be competing against 21 other teams from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand at the regional competition.

Now in its second year in the country, the FedEx Express Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge is designed to help students in the Asia Pacific countries learn about international trade and provide them with an opportunity to set up a mock business and develop a plan to export a product to an overseas market.

Winners were chosen for their understanding of the significance of market research, creativity, planning and entrepreneurial skills in executing new markets.

(JAP) executive director Kristina Alejandrino, Lim, Wu, FedEx's Maribeth Espinosa, Yap, Sow, FedEx's Samuel David, Ong and Lanuang

As part of FedEx commitment to assist these budding entrepreneurs on the road to success, FedEx employees also volunteered as mentors and guide them in the development of their plans and prepare them for the regional competition.

Toward kinder, gentler . . .

From page F1

Meyer said DepEd would forge an even closer working relationship with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) "to eliminate bullying as a source of tension among students."

As the study recommended is the development of modules on bullying as part of capacity-building of school personnel. Abrot said he was considering sending child rights and child welfare officers to discuss anti-bullying measures.

He would work with the CWC, the coordinating body for children's rights and one of the report's prime movers.

Besides peer bullies, according to the study, the perpetrators of violence against children (VAC) in schools are gangs and fraternities, as well as "authority figures, principals, guidance counselors, school guards, canteen workers and school drivers).

Meyer urged parents and students to report to DepEd any incidence of violence. "Please write the department or visit our Hotline Center at 6359527," he said.

He gave the assurance that DepEd would investigate thoroughly reported cases of corporal punishment. However, he noted, that the victims were often reluctant to speak up.

DepEd has no moral or evidentiary support," he said.

Under the Revised Rules of Procedures in Administrative Cases in the Department of Education (Department Order No. 49, issue of 2006) that governs the filing of complaints.

Filing a complaint

The usual procedure is for pupils or parents to file a complaint with the guidance counselor and the principal, who may reprimand the teacher.

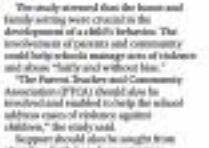
If the school's action is not satisfactory, the complainant can bring the problem to DepEd, which will schedule a conference and teacher and coordinate with the superintendent.

It suggested that DepEd should have a policy of designating members on the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) team monitor violence against children in ongoing training programs and seminars for school heads and management.

The report also recommended that all elementary and high schools in the country should have guidance counselors. They should be trained "to provide an objective assessment of and mediate cases involving teachers and students."

In this connection, it also suggested that a standard protocol, specifying procedures in addressing reported cases of violence, should be developed.

Apparently the concern DepEd



CHILDREN should know their rights so they can help another saves.

guidelines in handling reported cases of abuse need to be reviewed and re-implementation assessed especially as they relate to conduct discipline, gender sensitivity, and classroom management in accordance with human rights standards," it said.

Crucial

The study stressed that the home and family setting were crucial in the development of a child's behavior. The involvement of parents and community could help schools manage acts of violence and abuse "fairly and without bias."

"The Parent-Teacher and Community Association (PTCA) should also be involved and enabled to help the school address issues of violence against children," the study said.

Support should also be sought from churches, faith-based organizations, nongovernment and civic organizations, it added.

PLAN International country director Michael Shattock, whose organization is campaigning for civil or universal punishment, said, "School-based confidence due to overlooking transfers by a teacher is no less an abuse than a battered body inflicted by a fellow student. . . education, which is meant to open the door to a bright future for a child, is taken away."

The Department of Education Service Manual (2008) already prohibits school officials and students from imposing or applying cruel, physically harmful punishment on any pupil, or suspension as expulsion.

Department Order No. 2197, issues of 2007 reiterates Republic Act No. 7610, Child Child Abuse Law's provisions against maltreatment of children.

And the 2010 Manual of Regulations of Public Schools strictly prohibits corporal punishment, degrading tasks and punishment of a cruel nature. Teachers may be dismissed for violation of the rules. Principals and other school officials also face disciplinary action if they abuse the "parental authority entrusted to them." With a report from Perla Aragon-Choudhury

My daughter's living nightmare

From page F1

advised her to befriend Mylene and her other classmates... both girls and boys.

She did find a friend. Denise, whom Mylene also liked to bully. She also made friends with her male seatmate.

Denise and Mylene took the same school bus. I once waited for them as our gate to save the girl. I gently told her with a smile, "Are you Mylene? G, friends kayo si Heather, ha?" So quarreling," She responded with a smile.

Finding allies

But Mylene's bullying continued. The next thing I did was to identify girls in class who could be my daughter's possible allies. There was Patty, the top girl in class. I told her to come to Heather when my daughter was absent for two days. To show my appreciation, I gave Patty a pretty star-shaped memo holder like Heather's, which she showed to the other girls in class.

Denise also received self-the colorful erasers Heather gave her. The next day, I sent candies to Heather's friends classmates and they became friends.

But Mylene remained hostile and continued to reject Heather's friendship.

Mylene ordered Heather and the other girls around.

One time, I found a piece of paper hidden in my daughter's bag. It read: "Hindi ka isasali ang pencil case mo kung hindi mo ako bibigyan ng 10 each (I won't put your pencil case if you don't quarrel with her I mean her classmates.)."

When I asked my daughter why never it, she said it was Mylene. I kept the piece of paper, in case I decided to complain to their teacher.

Being in the area, I was surprised by Mylene's ability to manipulate girls her age. Why most girls were afraid of her was a mystery to me.

When the bullying went on, I advised Heather to report Mylene to her class adviser. She said nothing would happen because Mylene's mother was "very rich." The mother reportedly had a teacher reprimanded for reining on disciplining Mylene.

So, I told Heather to just ignore Mylene since she had already made some friends anyway.

But the bully's mother was on Heather become apparent as days went on. On days when Mylene picked on another girl, Heather would come home in a happy mood. When she was Mylene's favor of the day, Heather would be irritable and would cry suddenly the rest of the day refusing to study and wanting to drop out of school.

One morning, Heather refused to go to school unless I personally reported Mylene to their teacher. So I wrote a letter addressed to their adviser.

After she left for school, I realized she had left her pencil case. Knowing she had a long run that day, I decided to bring her pencil case to school and right at the classroom to share about the problem. I showed the teacher the piece of paper with Mylene's threatening note.

I found out there had been many similar complaints against Mylene. The teacher asked me to show a little understanding for the child, as she had been left in the care of her rich aunt after her parents separated.

Isolation strategy

Following my complaint, the class adviser separated Mylene from the rest of the class during lunch. The girl ate by herself in a corner while the rest of the class, including Heather, ate together in one big table at the school canteen.

The teacher told the class she wanted Mylene to feel what it was like to be ostracized, which was what Mylene did to classmates who refused to follow her orders.

The strategy seemed to work. Most of the class ignored Mylene. For the rest of the school year.

But in Grade 4, Mylene was back to her old wicked ways. She and Heather were still in the same class and, with a new adviser, my daughter's problem returned.

One day, I got so fed up by the bullying I told Heather to just show I solved a similar problem when I was in third grade. Another girl had challenged me to a fight in front of our classmates. I readily agreed to show her I was not afraid of her. (She did not show up. I was taking karate lessons with my brothers.) Afterwards, we became the very best of friends.

To my surprise, my child turned out to have the guts to follow my example. One day she came home with a satisfied look on her face and in tears. She bragged about how she, too, fought with Mylene. And that, too, beaten good friends into.

The following school year, Heather and Mylene were in the same homeroom and Mylene and her male cousin pestered many, malicious remarks, even using class words, on Heather's Friendster account. One message was so cruel one of Heather's male classmates cried in disbelief.

Although Heather kept her silence, her life became miserable again. The girl she thought had become her friend was once again her worst nightmare.

Anguished cry

So, when it in the middle of the night I heard Heather's anguished cry, I decided to bring the problem to the attention of the school authorities. I was convinced that the fight was being brought outside the classroom and to a mass medium accessible to many people. Moreover, other persons were getting involved (the girls' cousins).

But the second time, I went to the school and complained about my bully to the class adviser and grade school coordinator. They summoned Mylene who, in between tears, denied almost everything. She was told to bring her guardian to school and to apologize for her rude behavior towards me.

When I went to get Heather's report card at the end of the school year, I asked her adviser what had happened to my complaint. She simply said Mylene's guardian was a busy businessman who had no time to talk to them about the problem.

That decided it for me. The following year, I transferred Heather to another private school attended by two of her male cousins.

Two years after they parted ways, Mylene is still attempting to communicate with Heather. She calls up every now and then but Heather refuses to talk to her. My daughter has also ignored her instructor's Facebook request to become "friends."

'It's a passion, not just a profession'

2 HS boys seek inspiration from a surgeon

IDOL wants aspirants (L-R) Hernando, Cajetan and Jonelluna

AS PART of their Career Spin-Lighting Project, second year high school students of Claret School of Quezon City were asked to interview role models in the profession they would like to join someday.

For their first interview, Julius Marlon Jonelluna and Mondjan Hernando of B-St. Thomas More, both of whom aspire to be surgeons in the future, chose Dr. Oliver C. Cajetan Jr., a general and cancer surgeon in St. Luke's Medical Center-QC and Global City. Cajetan's happens to be the Jonelluna' family doctor. (The boys also interested former World's Strongest Woman Lydia Cacho Cabral, a radiologist, and Dr. Jessel L. Lim, head of the Department of Anesthesiology at SLMC-Global City.)

Following are excerpts from their interview with Cajetan (at the new SLMC-Global City clinic):

Question: Do you like your profession?

Answer: Yes, very much. It's a passion, it's not just a profession.

How long did it take you to become what you are now?

It became a surgeon, after high school, it took about 16 years. But it's not about the years. Don't be afraid of the numbers. You have to not only want it, you have to love what you do. Definitely, it was not money that attracted me to the profession.

When did you know you wanted to be a doctor?

After college, my co-pretiver was close by so he is a doctor. The first two years of medical school were neutral since most of the students are screened out. The challenges in medicine were not easy. It was rare to be a size sure but I was focused on developing my study capacity. I wanted to be the best that I could be. I realized there was a potential that I could develop, that I could do well to my profession, that I could succeed.

Then I discovered it was not difficult for me to empathize with patients. But, patience appreciation is not a question of simple sympathy. You have to be professional and I really have the capacity to help. It is not just a matter of emotion, but that theory, that empathy, makes the science of medicine an art. There's a fine line there. That's why it sometimes is be very interesting because it's not simple science.

What is your best experience as a doctor?

I think the best experience as a doctor was to impact on my family. One of what you can give, you are valued and respected. You discover God's subtle and sweet promises in the opportunities a doctor is given. You have to be prayerful, because you have to know when you get your intuition tone. You have to know how to persevere, to develop capacity to see and not just see of the students are screened out. The challenges in medicine were not easy. It was rare to be a size sure but I was focused on developing my study capacity. I wanted to be the best that I could be. I realized there was a potential that I could develop, that I could do well to my profession, that I could succeed.

Then I discovered it was not difficult for me to empathize with patients. But, patience appreciation is not a question of simple sympathy. You have to be professional and I really have the capacity to help. It is not just a matter of emotion, but that theory, that empathy, makes the science of medicine an art. There's a fine line there. That's why it sometimes is be very interesting because it's not simple science.

What advice can you give us or we can be like you someday?

You have to be true to your heart. You have to work hard. You have to know what you have to give and what you don't have. In other words, know your strengths and limitations. If your limitations will be a stumbling block to your aspirations, try to work on them and overcome them.

In medicine, if you don't study for a few months and you go to a conference, you'll feel left behind. You need to commit to studying. That's why you can't be productive in this kind of profession. It has to be an aspiration. You have to love it, it holds true for any profession.

You also have to know how to relax and be balanced and not just be an academic or bookish. It's a misperception you have to be strong not only academically but also clinically. You need not just and empathize with patients. Every patient is like an exam in the sense that the patient will probably decide after the visit if you're worth another visit, otherwise they may go to another doctor.

Is it hard to manage your work and time for your family?

Yes, you have to make sacrifices. The family will comes first. For example, when we started our practice, my wife (OB-GYN) experience, an obstetrician-gynecologist) and I would be in the OR (operating room) at 6:30 a.m. and go home at 10 p.m. But when we had baby-cases, the first thing we should do was clear the room and call her parents (because) by half. We realized that the family is for strong, had to be well supported, not only in terms of money, but also have to get priority time and loving time.

Recently, when my eldest son (Joel) was going to receive some honors in school, I asked a colleague to perform surgery on a patient so I could attend my son's awarding ceremony. It's your value you have, it's more of what you gain. And I missed that opportunity to be with my son, it would not have been worth a million pesos.

Would you want your two boys to become doctors?

I have to leave first that they want to become. I know that they will not be pressured. I'd if what I may want is not what they want, it may go into colleges, a good institution had parents who were doctors and they went through medicine, passed the board, became excellent clinicians, even specialists. And yet now, a number of them had gone on to where their passions really are. We would discover during residency that one is in politics, another is into music and others into business.

In other words, you cannot aspire for something that is not in your heart. You really have to have a passion for your chosen career.

And one more thing, don't rush. Be patient, discover and explore your strengths. High school is what you will talk about during your reunions. So enjoy your years in high school.

SLEEK. New kitchen has granite countertops and modular storage options.

AT THE OPENING. chefs Benilda Quilang from Pampanga, Gene Gonzalez, and Rosemarie Lim from Concordia SHC's Pasteria Pandesal Panaderia (pictured) and Marisol Macalo (right) served samplings of their cooking.

Tasteful spaces
for cooking lessons, demos

LOOKING HOW to cook is entertainment, efficient and fun at the newly renovated San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center.

Located within the San Miguel Pure Foods culinary hub in Bo. Ugong, Pasig City, the culinary center boasts of an integrated and modern look that addresses the practical needs of both chefs and consumers to engage during activities, culinary lessons and food presentations.

Marisol Macalo, San Miguel Pure Foods culinary services manager, says the center strives as a training center where their clients can participate in classes and learn about food safety and new culinary trends.

There are three distinct areas that can be opened up for a bigger space—a consumer kitchen, a bakeshop and a multi-purpose hall that joins the separate kitchens.

The consumer kitchen, with its black granite countertops and a modular storage system, functions as the center's demo kitchen. Rather than the usual overhead compartments in most test kitchens, most storage here are situated under the counters for chef convenience.

The bakeshop has well-lit storage areas, pantry cabinets and spacious workstations.

In both kitchens, there has been a conscious design for a more energy efficient system, as seen from the use of compact fluorescent lamps and electrical appliances with optimum power efficiency ratings.

The multipurpose hall is equipped with flat screen television sets that are hooked to a built-in camera to provide a total view of the culinary center. The camera has state-of-the-art pan-tilt-zoom technology that can zoom in and provide a complete view of any demonstration or presentation.

Thanks to architects Joel Yason and interior designer Alice Yason of Yason and Associates, the renovated culinary center sports sleek, modern lines and an uncluttered look. The use of wood and granite fittings—combined with the warm colors of deep, reddish brown accents and yellow walls—contrasts with the usual white enterprise corporate style of other test kitchens.

To mark the opening of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, all of the partner chefs of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Professionals Circle provided a sampling of their cooking offering San Miguel Pure Foods products.

For more information on San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center activities and recipes, visit www.sanmiguelfood.com.

The SMC Pure Foods culinary room

Essay contest on clean energy solutions

THE ABOITIZ POWER Corp. is sponsoring the "Clean Energy Industrial" category of the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) essay writing contest this year.

This is in line with the company's mission to promote cleaner and renewable energy.

The essay competition aims to encourage the youth to come up with ideas and concepts on how the next generation can address energy concerns. Overall theme is "The Role of the Youth in Tackling the Challenges of the New Energy Focus."

In 2009, Aboitiz Power introduced its brand of clean energy—renewable energy through Cleanergy. The company is one of the major producers of renewable energy in the country operating several hydroelectric and geothermal plants.

For details on the contest, visit http://www.energy-info.com and www.energyweb4kids.com.

LAUNCHING. ERC executive director Francis Jose and public affairs officer Chona Capulong with Aboitiz chief operations officer Sebastian Lacoste and power sector assets and liabilities management vice president Helena Tolentino

A lab for budding scientists

THE FULLY equipped laboratory of DMHS

THE DALANGIAN National High School (DNHS) in Dalanghigan near San, a rural laboratory thanks to the Americas Women's Club of the Philippines (AWCP).

The laboratory has been provided with microscopes, beakers, Bunsen burners, chemicals and other materials.

The high school's students and teachers organized a program to formally thank their benefactors.

Then and the new lab's facilities were comparable to those in Manila's private schools. Teachers said the new lab made instruction easier.

The AWCP headed by Minita Chacko, holds monthly bazaars to raise funds for its various projects. It has established the Tarlagan Elementary School, donated books to DNHS, and extended assistance to Dr. Manila Observatory at the Ateneo de Manila University.

MEMBERS of AWCP received tokens of appreciation from DNHS.

Free public school teacher-librarians seminar

THE LOPEZ Memorial Museum and Library and the Philippine Foundation Inc. will host the "38th Teacher-Librarian Seminar Aug. 19 at the Lopez Museum.

The seminar is conducted for free for public elementary and high school teacher-librarians to help develop skills for the care of library collections, harnessing of resources and development of lifelong users. This year's focus is cataloguing, fundraising and library wellness.

The Robinsons Children's Library, the Lopez Memorial Museum's and Library and the Bridges Foundation Library Inc., with the support of JobFlex, Pandayan for Publishing, National Book Development Board, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts, developed the training program.

Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Walk-ins will be charged a fee. Call 3862172 or 8721617.

Gender training for communications faculty

THE WOMEN'S Feature Service Philippines Inc. (WFSI), with St. Scholastica's College, will hold the Gender Training for Communication Educators on Aug. 21-22 at the Women's Wholeness and Ecology Farm, Marikina, Manila.

The activity is organized by "The Working Group for Rights and Gender Education in Communication (Path), for best effort a roundtable discussion on "Gender and Rights Education in Communication" in 2007.

TWG is composed of communication deans, chairs/department heads and faculty of four universities and two women's colleges.

The two-day training will have separate sessions for men and women on the first day. The module includes sex and gender constructions in society, reconstructing masculinity and gender ideologies.

Deadline for reservations is Aug. 18. Training fee of 1,000 per participant covers overnight accommodation, meals, transportation and kits. Call tel 8931-8334 loc 6 or e-mail womensfeatureservice@yahoo.com.